



Borough of Harrogate

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1955

BY

D. D. PAYNE, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health



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Medical Officer of Health

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THE HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1955

Chairman : Alderman Mrs. M. FISHER, J.P.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor H. LENG

THE MAYOR (Councillor R. J. RILEY, J.P.)

Ald.	Mrs. FISHER, J.P.	Coun.	MABER
„	TENNANT	„	MARTIN
Coun.	BARKER	„	MORRELL
„	CHRISTELOW	„	POUNDER
„	CRADDOCK	„	ROGERS
„	LENG	„	SHILLITO
„	LOWE	„	SWINBANK
		„	Miss WARDLE

HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE :

Chairman: Alderman Mrs. FISHER, J.P.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor H. LENG

THE MAYOR (Councillor R. J. RILEY, J.P.)

Ald.	Mrs. FISHER, J.P.	Coun.	LENG
Coun.	BARKER	„	MORRELL
„	CRADDOCK	„	Miss WARDLE

**To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Harrogate**

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your information and consideration my Annual Report on the health of the Borough for 1955.

The notification of cases of tuberculosis and the deaths from this disease show a continuing and most gratifying decrease. Last year the number of new cases notified totalled 21, compared with an average of 54 over the preceding ten post war years, whilst the number of deaths reached the low level of 4, compared with the average figure of 16 over the preceding two years.

The national figures show the same trend. Fifty years ago tuberculosis accounted for 7.6 per cent of all deaths and in 1955 for 1.3 per cent, and the death rate from tuberculosis in England and Wales is only a third of what it was ten years ago. The fall in notifications of the disease has not been so great, but this may be due to some extent to the better ascertainment of cases through mass radiography, tracing of contacts and improved diagnosis.

The welcome decline in this disease is due to many factors, including modern methods of diagnosis and treatment, better housing and social conditions, improved standards of nutrition and especially in the case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, to the widespread use of tuberculin tested and pasteurised milk.

Nevertheless the national statistics for 1955 show that 79 per cent of deaths due to infective disease in the age group 15 to 39 years were caused by tuberculosis. The widespread use of B.C.G. vaccination in this country, in 1955 and subsequent years, should play an important role in decreasing the chance of the adolescent and young adult contracting the disease, but the main emphasis must lie on the effort to discover the missed or untraced infectious case.

The story of cancer of the lung is alarming. In 1950 in Harrogate, 13 deaths from cancer of the lung and 101 deaths from cancer of all other types were registered, whereas in 1955 there were 31 deaths from cancer of the lung and 100 deaths from cancer of all other types and between these years there was a progressive increase in the cases of lung cancer.

The national figures are similar, in 1944, there were 6,568 deaths attributed to lung cancer, in 1954 the corresponding figure was 17,271. There is no doubt that cigarette smoking is an

important factor in the causation of cancer of the lung and that the risk of dying of cancer of lung is directly proportional to the amount smoked. A recent inquiry by the American Cancer Society showed that the death rates per 100,000 men aged 50-69 from cancer of lung were, in the non-smoker 27.2, regular smokers but less than one packet a day—113.1, one packet or more a day—239.2. As the British Medical Journal has stated—"It is essential to bring home to the youth of to-day the great dangers to life and health from smoking cigarettes, certainly in excess."

The function of the Health Visitor is not always clearly understood by the public; she may be described as the all purpose social worker, her main duty being teaching and giving advice on all aspects of health. Working in co-operation with the family doctor and hospital almoner she can put the handicapped of all ages into touch with the various statutory and voluntary agencies that can assist them and render valuable assistance in the after care of patients discharged from hospital. Her work is not confined to that of dealing with the mother and baby, but with the family as a whole, and includes in its range and scope, work with the aged and infirm and the mentally ill.

The main difficulty at the present time, with the extending duties of the health visitor, is to recruit sufficient new and suitable entrants to this branch of service.

There is an ever increasing use of cremation as the method of the disposal of the dead. The Harrogate Crematorium was built some twenty years ago, and during the first year 50 bodies were cremated, ten years later the number of cremations had risen to 213, whilst in 1955, 504 bodies were cremated at Stonefall Crematorium, of which 296 had been residents in the Borough of Harrogate.

I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their interest and assistance and to record my appreciation of the loyal work of the staff of the Department.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

D. D. PAYNE,
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Municipal Offices,
HARROGATE.
June, 1956.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1955.



Medical Officer of Health and Divisional Medical Officer:

D. D. PAYNE, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Senior Assistant County Medical Officer:

P. S. BURRELL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Resigned 3-12-55).

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :

E. DODSWORTH, F.R.S.H., M.S.I.A., M.Inst.P.C. (a) (b)

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector and Deputy Cleansing Superintendent :

V. OVERSBY, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A., A.M.Inst.P.C. (a) (b)

Sanitary Inspectors :

F. COE, A.R.S.H., Cert. S.I.B. (a) (b)

A. HOWARD, M.R.S.H., Cert. S.I.B., A.I.S.E. (a) (c)

E. B. COOP, A.R.S.H., M.S.I.A. (a)

Public Analysts :

FRED W. M. JAFFÉ, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.

J. C. HARRAL, F.R.I.C.

Clerical Staff as at 31-12-55 :

(also Clerical Staff of Division No. 8 under the scheme of Divisional Administration of the Preventive Medical Service).

L. R. WILKINSON (Chief Clerk)	Mrs. J. SYLVESTER
J. E. BIELBLY (Senior Clerk)	Miss A. LEGGETT
Miss M. STARKEY (Senior Clerk)	Miss P. ELLISON
Mrs. W. GLEDHILL	C. C. WILSON
K. W. DARLEY	C. H. TURNER

Sanitary and Cleansing Sections Clerical Staff :

H. M. WILEY, D.P.A. (Senior Clerk)	Miss M. M. ATKINSON
H. K. PEARSON	B. V. O'NEILL

- (a) Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Meat and Other Foods Inspector.
- (b) Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute in Sanitary Science as applies to Buildings and Public Works.
- (c) Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Smoke Inspector.

GENERAL STATISTICS, 1955.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,320
Population (mid-summer, 1955, estimated by the Registrar General)	...	...	...	...	...	...	51,710
Number of Inhabited houses (Rate Books, March 31st, 1955)	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,425
Rateable Value, March, 1955	...	...	...	...	...	...	£629,120
Product of Penny Rate, March, 1955	...	...	...	...	...	...	£2,512
Births	Males			Females			
Live Births:	Legitimate	300	} 314	Legitimate	285	} 306	620
	Illegitimate	14		Illegitimate	21		
Birth Rate (Live births per 1,000 of the estimated population)							12.0
*Adjusted Birth Rate	Males "			Females "			12.0
Still Births:	Legitimate	3	} 5	Legitimate	8	} 8	13
	Illegitimate	2		Illegitimate	-		
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births							20.5
Deaths							
Number of Deaths: Males	344,	Females	362	...	...	...	706
Crude Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.7
*Adjusted Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.3
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion							0.0
Deaths of Infants under one year of age:							
	Males			Females			
	Legitimate	6	} 6	Legitimate	10	} 10	16
	Illegitimate	-		Illegitimate	-		
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—							
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	25.8
							Rate (per 1,000 population)
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea (9)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.2
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis (4)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.1
Deaths from other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.0
Deaths from Infective and parasitic diseases excluding Tuberculosis but including Syphilis and other Venereal Diseases (9)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.2
Deaths from Vascular lesions of the nervous system (115)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.2
Deaths from Heart and Circulatory diseases (265)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5.1
Deaths from Cancer (131)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.5
Deaths from Respiratory diseases (57)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.1
Mean Annual Temperature	...	...	...	...	...	...	47.1
Total Rainfall (in inches)	...	...	...	...	...	...	22.06
Hours of Bright Sunshine	...	...	...	...	...	...	1526.1
* Adjusted by Area Comparability factors supplied by the Registrar General. This adjustment makes allowance for the changing age structure of the population. (Births 1.05 and Deaths 0.75).							

TABLE I.
VITAL STATISTICS OF HARROGATE FOR 1955 AND
PREVIOUS YEARS.

	Estimated Population	Nett Live Births		Nett Deaths			
				Under 1 year of age		At all ages	
		No.	Rate	No.	Rate per 1,000 live Births	No.	Rate
1932	38,590	471	12.2	16	34.0	510	13.2
1933	38,850	452	11.6	21	46.5	565	14.5
1934	39,210	442	11.3	21	47.5	573	14.6
1935	39,270	457	11.6	28	61.2	544	13.8
1936	39,210	460	11.7	30	65.2	550	14.0
1937	39,110	470	12.0	24	51.1	559	14.3
1938	42,885	514	12.0	52	48.6	647	15.1
1939	46,020	579	12.6	25	43.0	646	14.0
1940	52,200	583	11.2	35	59.2	737	14.1
1941	54,790	594	10.8	30	48.6	706	12.9
1942	52,180	724	13.9	27	37.3	654	12.5
1943	50,180	625	12.5	22	35.2	702	14.0
1944	49,740	736	14.8	20	27.2	676	13.6
1945	48,730	679	13.9	25	36.8	682	13.9
1946	49,300	818	16.6	24	29.3	684	13.9
1947	49,660	906	18.2	32	35.3	724	14.6
1948	52,300	795	15.2	18	22.6	665	12.7
1949	51,930	690	13.3	25	36.0	771	12.5
1950	51,920	649	11.9	33	51.0	776	12.4
1951	51,210	663	12.3	19	28.7	774	12.5
1952	51,050	667	12.4	13	19.5	720	11.7
1953	51,290	678	12.6	18	26.5	609	9.9
1954	51,690	621	12.6	7	11.3	695	10.1
1955	51,710	620	12.6	16	25.8	706	10.3

The deaths from the year 1949 have been adjusted by an Area Comparability factor supplied by the Registrar General and the births have been similarly adjusted since 1950 (0.75 and 1.05 respectively).

TABLE II.
CAUSES OF DEATH IN HARROGATE BOROUGH, 1955.

Causes of Death						1955	
						Male	Female
All Causes						344	362
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	4	—
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	3	3
4	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—
7	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	1
8	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	2	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	8	4
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	24	7
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	7
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	4
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	42	33
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	1	1
16	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	2	2
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	48	67
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	72	44
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	11	12
20	Other heart diseases	...	...	...	...	39	61
21	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	9	17
22	Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	1
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	13	8
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	15	15
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	3	2
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	5	2
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	2	7
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	6	6
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	3	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	2	3
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	18	39
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	5	4
34	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	5	9
35	Suicide	...	...	...	...	2	2
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	1
Total						706	

TABLE III.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1954 and 1955.

Deaths from Stated Causes at Various Ages under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	1954	1955									
		Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks.	4 wks. & under 3 mths.	3 and under 6 months.	6 and under 9 months.	9 and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 yr
1 Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 Bronchitis and Pneumonia	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
6 Gastro-enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7 Congenital Malformations	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	3
8 Immaturity	2	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
9 Injury at Birth	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
10 Post-natal Asphyxia and Atelectasis	—	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
11 Haemolytic Disease	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
12 Accidental Mechanical Suffocation	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13 Other Causes	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Totals	7	11	—	1	—	12	1	2	—	1	16

TABLE IV.

AGE GROUPS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND FOOD POISONING DURING THE FIFTY TWO WEEKS ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955.

Disease	Total Notified	Number of Cases Notified							No of Cases admit'd to Hospital	Total No of Deaths (Notified Cases)
		At Ages—Years								
		Under 1 year	1-2 years	3-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-24 years	25 and over		
Scarlet Fever	58	—	3	7	33	13	—	2	18	—
Measles	516	13	130	142	217	6	2	6	5	—
Whooping Cough	254	22	49	63	111	5	1	3	10	—
Acute Pneumonia	40	—	2	2	1	6	2	27	1	4
Erysipelas	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	31	—	—	—	—	—	14	17	29	—
Typhoid Fever	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Acute Encephalitis	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
{ Post-infectious Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Infective Encephalitis		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	8	3	1	1	—	—	—	3	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	8	—	—	—	2	—	2	4	7	1
{ Paralytic	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
{ Non-Paralytic		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

1. POPULATION.

The population estimated by the Registrar General at the end of June, 1955, was 51,710, which was 20 higher than his estimate for 1954.

2. UNEMPLOYMENT.

At the end of the year, the number of persons registered as unemployed in Harrogate and surrounding districts, was 352, 265 males and 87 females. This was an increase on the previous year when the total figure of unemployed persons was 277.

At the end of 1955 there was 1 boy and 5 girls in the Borough of Harrogate listed by the Youth Employment Bureau as unemployed.

3 BIRTHS.

(a) Live Births.

The number of live births registered during the year was 1102, 575 males and 527 females, but the corrected figure supplied by the Registrar General which is used for the calculations below and which takes into account inward and outward transfers was 620, 314 males and 306 females. This was a decrease of 1 on the figure for 1954.

The birth rate when adjusted by the area comparability factor was 12.6 live births per thousand of the estimated population, this was 2.4 below the rate for England and Wales (15.0).

There were 35 illegitimate live births, 14 males and 21 females, representing approximately 5.6 per cent. of the live births.

(b) Still Births.

28 still-births, 15 males and 13 females were registered during the year. The corrected figure supplied by the Registrar General and adjusted for inward and outward transfers was 13, 5 males and 8 females, which was 2 less than the previous year.

This gave a rate of 20.5 per thousand (live and still) births as compared with 23.1 for England and Wales.

4. DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered during 1955 in the Borough was 802, 395 males and 407 females, but the number of deaths given by the Registrar General corrected for inward and outward transfers was 706, 344 males and 362 females.

The crude death rate was 13.7 per thousand, but when adjusted by the area comparability factor supplied by the Registrar General, the rate was reduced to 10.3 per thousand, as compared with 11.7 for England and Wales.

Infant Mortality.

The number of deaths of children under one year of age was 16, 6 males and 10 females, as compared with 7 during the preceding year. The infant mortality rate was 25.8 per thousand live births as compared with 11.3 for 1954 and a rate of 24.9 for England and Wales.

Cremations.

During 1955, 504 bodies were cremated at the Stonefall Crematorium, of whom 296 had been residents of the Borough of Harrogate.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

The names and qualifications of these are set out on page 10.

2. HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

(1) Chemical

The chemical analysis of milk, foodstuffs, spring and well water is carried out by Messrs. Richardson and Jaffé. The chemical and bacteriological analysis of the Corporation water is carried out for the Water Committee by Mr. J. Firth (Messrs. Fairley and Partner), Leeds.

(2) Bacteriological

The bacteriological examination of clinical material from cases or suspected cases of infectious disease, food poisoning, etc., is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at the Harrogate and District General Hospital.

The laboratory also carries out the bacteriological examination of well and spring water, and milk, together with methylene blue tests on milk and ice cream, and phosphatase tests on milk.

Examinations to ascertain infection of milk with tubercle bacilli are sent through the Public Health Laboratory in Harrogate to the Northallerton Public Health Laboratory. The examination of water supplies for plumbo-solvent action has been undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory Service situated at County Hall, Wakefield.

Harrogate is fortunate in having a Public Health Laboratory Service situated at the Harrogate General Hospital.

Dr. D. J. H. Payne, the Bacteriologist in charge of the Laboratory, co-operates fully with the Medical Officer of Health and his staff. The services of the Laboratory have been particularly valuable when an outbreak of infection has occurred in a boarding school, a nursing home, or other institution, or where there have been suspected cases of food poisoning.

(b) Hospitals.

The names, purposes, etc., of the Hospitals principally used are set out in detail on page 19.

These Hospitals are under the management of the Regional Hospital Board.

(c) Local Authority Clinics.

The Local Authority Clinics held in Harrogate are listed on page 20.

HOSPITALS

Name	Situation	Purpose	Beds			Management
			Males	Females	Children	
Isolation Hospital	Thistle Hill, Knaresborough	Infectious Diseases	11	11	10	Regional Hospital Board
do do	do	Two Wards for Non- Infectious Children	—	—	22	do
Harrogate and Dist. General Hospital	Knaresborough Rd., Harrogate	Medical, Surgical and Maternity	73	153	27	do
Carlton Lodge	Leeds Road, Harrogate	Maternity	—	11	—	do
Royal Bath Hospital	Cornwall Road, Harrogate	Rheumatic Diseases	48	92	7	do
White Hart Hospital	Cold Bath Road, Harrogate	do	133 interchangeable beds			do

SCHOOL AND MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE CLINICS

(a) Central Clinic 2, Dragon Parade, Harrogate. Tel. 6332	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Minor Ailments (a) .. .	† 10 a.m.	—	—	† 10 a.m.	—	—
" " (Starbeck Council School)	1-30 p.m.	—	—	—	—	—
General School Clinic .. . (a) .. .	—	—	† 2-30 p.m.	—	—	—
Ophthalmic Clinic (a) .. .	—	—	—	—	(by appointment)	—
Orthopaedic Clinic (a) .. .	—	§ (by appointment)	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination (a) .. .	—	—	10 a.m. (by appointment)	—	—	—
Artificial Sunlight (a) .. .	9-0 a.m. (by appointment)	—	2-0 p.m. (by appointment)	—	9-0 a.m. (by appointment)	—
Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic .. (a) .. .	—	§ 9-30 a.m. (by appointment)	—	—	—	—
Dental Clinic (a) .. . †	9-0 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. 1-45 p.m. to 5-15 p.m.	9-0 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. 1-45 p.m. to 5-15 p.m.	9-0 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. 1-45 p.m. to 5-15 p.m.	9-0 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. 1-45 p.m. to 5-15 p.m.	9-0 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. 1-45 p.m. to 5-15 p.m.	9-0 a.m. to 12-30 p.m.
Cardiac Clinic General Hospital ..	—	—	—	—	—	10 a.m. (by appointment)
Speech Therapy, (a) .. .	1-30 p.m. (by appointment)	9-0 a.m. (by appointment)	2 p.m. (by appointment)	—	—	—
Maternity and Child Welfare						
Child Welfare Centre (a) .. .	2 p.m. to 4-30 p.m.	—	—	2 p.m. to 4-30 p.m.	—	—
Child Welfare Centre (Methodist School, High St., Starbeck)	—	—	2 p.m. to 4-30 p.m.	—	—	—
Child Welfare Centre (St. Joseph's R.C. Schoolroom, Skipton Road)	2 p.m. to 4-30 p.m.	—	—	—	—	—
Ante-Natal Clinic (a) .. .	—	2 p.m. to 4-30 p.m.	11 a.m. to 12 noon	—	—	—

† School Medical Officer in attendance
§ Second and Fourth Tuesday each month

§ First and third Tuesday each month
† Urgent Cases by Telephone appointment

THE PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND THEIR CONTROL

(a) NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The number of cases notified and the number of deaths from notifiable infectious disease are set out in Table IV on page 15.

1. Scarlet Fever.

58 cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year as compared with 33 in 1954. Scarlet fever is now a very mild disease and complications rarely occur.

41 of the cases were isolated in their own homes and 17 patients were admitted to the Isolation Hospital.

2. Measles.

516 cases of measles were notified as compared with 639 during 1954. There were no deaths and the illness in most instances was mild in character. The majority of the cases occurred in the spring of the year and no cases were notified in the last three months of the year. Children who had recently entered primary schools at the age of five years were mostly affected.

3. Whooping Cough.

254 cases of whooping cough had been notified as compared with 17 during the previous year. There were no fatal cases. Of the 245 cases of which I have records, 69 had been immunised of whom 10 were stated to be severe cases. This gave a percentage of 14 per cent of severe cases in the immunised cases. Of the 176 who had not been immunised, 39, or 22 per cent, were stated to be severe in character.

It is not possible to say how many children who had been immunised against whooping cough were protected against developing infection.

4. Acute Pneumonia.

40 cases of pneumonia were notified, of these 25 were acute primary pneumonia and 15 were acute influenzal pneumonia. There were 4 fatal cases.

5. Erysipelas.

5 cases of erysipelas were notified as compared with 8 cases in the preceding year. All these cases cleared very rapidly with antibiotic treatment.

6. Puerperal Pyrexia.

31 cases of puerperal pyrexia in maternity cases occurred during 1955 compared with 9 during 1954. In 9 cases the rise in temperature was due to a catarrhal infection or bronchitis, in 8 cases it was due to urinary infection, in 5 cases due to breast infection, in 4 cases due to mild uterine infection, and in 5 cases no cause for the raised temperature could be found. All these cases cleared up satisfactorily, in each case the baby was alive and well. Of these 31 cases, the homes of 15 were outside the Harrogate Borough.

7. Typhoid Fever.

A case of typhoid fever was notified in November, in a boy aged 8 years. Despite a very full investigation, it could not be ascertained how this boy became infected. He made a good recovery and was discharged from hospital, fit and well, at the end of the year.

8. Acute Encephalitis.

A child of two years of age developed chicken pox in April, which ran a typical course for twelve days. On the evening of the twelfth day, the child became acutely ill and was admitted to the Harrogate General Hospital at once, with signs of brain infection. He died within two hours of admission to hospital and laboratory investigations showed typical signs of encephalitis which is a rare complication of chicken pox.

9. Food Poisoning.

8 cases of food poisoning were notified during the year as compared with 11 cases during the previous year. In 7 cases the organism giving rise to the food poisoning was salmonella typhimurium and in 1 case salmonella thompson was isolated.

3 cases occurred in one house, comprising an adult aged twenty-five years, a son aged eight months, and a baby living in the flat below aged ten months. The adult was found to be carrying the organism but had no symptoms.

2 cases were notified in children living in the same house, one child was aged two years and the other aged eight months. The remaining 3 cases were isolated ones, 2 were in adults and 1 was a child. The child had been away on a visit to Ilkley and returned home at the onset of infection. One of the adults was a visitor to Harrogate whose illness started before he reached the Borough but the diagnosis of food poisoning was made in this town.

In no case was any food found to be the cause of infection.

10. Acute Poliomyelitis.

9 cases of acute poliomyelitis were notified during the year as compared with 5 cases during 1954. Of these 9 cases, 3 made complete recoveries without any residual paralysis. In 1 case, which was an adult, there has been almost complete paralysis and at the end of the year the patient was still being nursed in an iron lung.

It is perhaps remarkable that of the 9 cases reported, 6 were adults over the age of twenty-one, 1 was a youth aged eighteen, and only 2 were in children aged six years and five years respectively.

11. Other Infectious Diseases.

No case of smallpox, diphtheria, dysentery, nor ophthalmia neonatorum was notified during the year.

12. Tuberculosis.

21 cases of Tuberculosis were notified during 1955, of these 15 were pulmonary tuberculosis and 6 were non-pulmonary.

The following table gives details of the new cases notified and of the mortality for 1955 :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1- 4 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-14 „	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—
15-24 „	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
25-34 „	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
35-44 „	3	3	—	1	2	—	—	—
45-54 „	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55-64 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	9	6	1	5	4	—	—	—

37 cases were removed from the Register; of these, 18 patients recovered, 14 removed to other areas, 4 died, and 1 patient was lost sight of.

121 new contacts were examined at the Harrogate Chest Clinic during the year, none of whom were found to be suffering from Tuberculosis, but 18 remained under observation at the end of the year. There were 545 routine attendances of notified cases and 307 routine attendances of contacts at this Clinic.

All child contacts who were found to be “Mantoux negative” were referred for B.C.G. vaccination.

The provision of Home Helps for tuberculous families has been greatly appreciated by the patients.

Mass Radiography.

The Mass Radiography Unit carried out a survey in Harrogate in July, 1955. The Unit was stationed at St. Mark's Parochial Hall and at the Harrogate General Hospital, when 2,394 persons of whom 1,043 were males and 1,351 were females, were examined.

The main groups examined were :—

	Males	Females	Total
General Public	872	898	1,770
Staff of the Harrogate Hospital and out-patients attending the hospital	118	183	301
Staff of the West Riding County Council	47	203	250
Staff of Children's Homes and Independent Schools ...	6	67	73
	<hr/> 1,043	<hr/> 1,351	<hr/> 2,394

As a result of this survey, 8 cases of inactive tuberculosis, and 25 cases where there was some other non-tuberculous abnormality of the heart, chest, or lungs were found.

Provision of Milk.

On the recommendation of the Chest Physician, cases of tuberculosis are issued with a free grant of two pints of milk daily. During the year, recommendations were made in respect of 19 Harrogate patients. In addition, 53 Harrogate patients, who had been recommended by the Chest Physician prior to the 1st January, 1955, continued to receive this grant of milk.

During 1955, 27 grants were discontinued and at the end of the year 45 patients were receiving this free milk.

Tuberculosis Care Committee.

In 1954, a Tuberculosis Care Committee was jointly set up to cover cases arising both in this Division and in the Ripon and Pateley Bridge Division. The Committee includes representatives of the Local Authorities and of Voluntary Organisations, the Chest Physician in the area, and the two Medical Officers of Health, and the Tuberculosis Health Visitors. The Committee meets bi-monthly throughout the year and an Emergency Committee of three members was formed to deal with urgent matters.

The Committee is financed in part by a grant received from the West Riding County Council and in part by monies raised by local efforts and donations received.

Grants were made by the Committee to 9 families resident in the Borough of Harrogate, and at Christmas time 13 parcels containing fruit, eggs, and butter were distributed to tuberculous families. The advice and assistance given to families included help in paying fares for holidays, assistance in paying the cost of internal decorations in the home, provision of a cot for a new baby, new sheets for a patient's bed, and a supply of wool for the knitting of clothing for a patient.

13. Preventive Inoculations.

(a) Diphtheria Immunisation.

540 children under five years of age and 70 children of school age were immunised against diphtheria for the first time during 1955.

624 reinforcing inoculations were given during the year to children where the degree of immunity had been diminished by the length of time since their initial inoculation.

A clinic is held at 2, Dragon Parade, Harrogate, on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. for this purpose. Diphtheria immunisation is also carried out at the infant welfare clinics, in schools, and is also undertaken by local medical practitioners.

(b) Whooping Cough Immunisation.

Immunisation against whooping cough is undertaken both by the medical staff of the Health Department and by general practitioners. The best age for protecting young children is between three and six months, as whooping cough proves to be a more serious infection in the very young. Protective treatment is not given beyond the age of four years.

The number of whooping cough immunisations carried out in 1955 was 249. In addition many pre-school children received the combined diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation through their private practitioners.

(c) Smallpox Vaccination.

A vaccination clinic is held at 2, Dragon Parade, Harrogate, on Wednesday mornings at 10-0 a.m. Vaccinations are also carried out by general practitioners who send details of the vaccinations to the Health Department for record purposes.

The total number of vaccinations carried out in the Borough is shown in the table below:—

	Under 1 year	1 year	2-4 years	5-14 years	15 years and over	Total
No. Vaccinated ...	215	191	27	8	41	482
No. Re-vaccinated	—	—	3	18	121	142

The most important argument in favour of the routine primary vaccination of healthy children in infancy is that complications are fewer and less troublesome when primary vaccination is done at this age. The best age for primary vaccination is considered to be four months.

The number of children under one year of age vaccinated in this Borough in 1955 was 34.7 per cent of the number of live births registered during the year.

(d) Tuberculosis Vaccination.

The parents of thirteen year old school children attending the council schools were given the opportunity of accepting vaccination with B.C.G. for their children. It is first necessary to find out which children need this vaccination and this is determined by a test, known as the Mantoux test, which is a skin test showing whether the child has already acquired a natural resistance to tuberculosis, or whether vaccination is desirable.

In Harrogate, 375 children received this preliminary Mantoux test and from the test it was shown that it was desirable for 260 children to receive the B.C.G. vaccination, all of whom were vaccinated during the year.

In addition to the vaccination of the thirteen year old school children, B.C.G. vaccinations were undertaken by the staff of the Consultant Chest Physician on children who were contacts of this disease and who, therefore, were exposed to special risk, as an example, the children in a home where one of the parents is suffering from tuberculosis. 105 B.C.G. vaccinations were carried out on such contacts, of whom 48 were males and 57 were females. Of these, 67 were pre-school children, 36 were of school age, and 2 were adults.

(b) NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

1. Cancer.

131 deaths, 75 males and 56 females, were due to this cause. This shows a slight increase over the previous year when the number of deaths totalled 126. This gives a death rate of 2.5 compared with 2.06 for England and Wales.

2. Scabies.

No case of scabies was diagnosed during the year.

REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION

In urgent cases where removal to hospital is required without delay, action can be taken under the National Assistance (Amendment) Act 1951, and an order may be made by a local Justice of the Peace requiring the individual to be taken to hospital. This action is only taken where there is a complete lack of home care and where the person refuses to go to hospital for care and attention.

One elderly woman, who was suffering from heart failure, was so removed to hospital. She had been supplied with a home nurse and home help but her medical condition was deteriorating and she could not be left at home alone during the night. She died in hospital three weeks after admission.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS UNDER THE FACORIES ACTS

During the year 273 medical examinations of young persons were undertaken to determine their fitness for employment in factories.

The term factories covers a fairly wide range of employment and includes such employment as laundries, garages, and dress-making establishments.

Young persons, that is those between school leaving age and eighteen years, are examined within a fortnight of entry to a factory to ascertain if they are medically fit to undertake such work. They are subsequently examined at yearly intervals until they attain the age of eighteen years. Of the number of examinations made, 143 were boys and 130 were girls.

Special examinations, undertaken at three monthly intervals, are carried out in the case of women and young persons who work in processes involving the use of lead compound. In Harrogate such employees are either painters or apprentice painters and 2 such examinations were carried out during the year.

WEST RIDING COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SERVICES IN OPERATION IN THE BOROUGH OF HARROGATE

The following is a brief summary of the work of the medical services of the West Riding County Council which are undertaken in the Borough of Harrogate.

STAFF

(Division No. 8, as at 31st December, 1955.)

(1) Medical Staff.

D. D. Payne, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Divisional Medical Officer.

P. S. R. Burrell, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., (Resigned 3-12-55),
Senior Assistant County Medical Officer.

Mary Pullan, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B. D.OBST., R.C.O.G.,
Assistant County Medical Officer.

W. Turner, M.B., Ch.B., (Appointed 1-7-55),
Assistant County Medical Officer.

(2) **Other Officers on Divisional Establishment**

(a) **Professional and Technical Staff**

Health Visitor employed on Hospital Liaison duties ...	1
Health Visitors who are also School Nurses	11
Tuberculosis Health Visitor	1
School Nurse	1
Home Nurses	8
Home Nurses Midwives	9
Midwives	1
Mental Health Social Worker	*1
Mental Health Home Teacher	*1
Speech Therapist	*1

* Also employed in other Divisional Areas

(b) **Administrative and Clerical Staff**

(Also employed in part by Harrogate Corporation).	
Clerical Staff	10

(c) **Sale of Food Assistants**

Full-time	1
Part-time	1

(d) **Day Nursery Staff**

Albany Avenue Day Nursery	11
---------------------------------	----

(e) **Home Helps**

Part-time	89
-----------------	----

(f) **Domestic Staff, etc.**

Cleaners, part-time	6
Gardener/Handyman, part-time	1

Total Divisional Staff 157

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Local Ambulance Station of the West Riding County Council Ambulance Service is under the charge of the Superintendent Ambulance Officer and is situated at the Parade Garage, Harrogate.

The service is provided free under the National Health Service Act and removes patients to and from hospitals, maternity homes and nursing homes. It also removes infectious disease cases to hospital.

The vehicles consist of 5 ambulances, all equipped with short wave wireless transmission and reception apparatus, enabling information to be passed to and from central control. This enables ambulances to be diverted to accidents and other emergencies and can save life and time. The Station has its own transmitter, together with a monitor set which gives full information from the main control at Birkenshaw, Nr. Bradford.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

1. MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There was no maternal death amongst the residents of the Borough during the year.

2. INFANT MORTALITY.

The infant mortality rate was 25.8 per 1,000 live births as compared with 24.9 for England and Wales. Full details regarding infant mortality are given on pages 14 and 17.

The neo-natal mortality rate, which is the number of deaths of infants under one month of age per 1,000 live births, was 19.4 compared with 17.3 for England and Wales.

3. CONFINEMENTS IN HOSPITALS AND NURSING HOMES.

During 1955 a total of 547 births to Harrogate residents took place in hospitals or nursing homes and 90 patients were confined in their own homes.

This shows that 88.3 per cent of deliveries of mothers living in Harrogate took place in maternity wards of hospitals and maternity beds at nursing homes. This percentage is far higher than for the country as a whole.

4. DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY.

Of the 90 confinements in the Borough of Harrogate which took place at home, 88 were attended by the midwives on the staff of the West Riding County Council, 1 by a midwife in private practice, and 1 case was confined before the midwife arrived and subsequently removed to hospital.

In 13 cases the doctor was present at the time of delivery of the child.

5. GAS AND AIR ANALGESIA.

Gas and Air Analgesia was used at 59 Harrogate confinements attended by domiciliary midwives. Three Gas and Air Machines were in use in the Borough at the end of the year.

Pethidine was used at 55 of the domiciliary confinements which took place in the Borough of Harrogate.

6. OBSTETRIC FLYING SQUAD

The Obstetric Flying Squad was not called out during the year to any Harrogate resident but had two emergency calls. One was to the North Riding to a patient who had had an incomplete abortion and the other was to a patient who lived in the Ripon and Pateley Bridge Rural District who had had severe post-partum haemorrhage.

In both cases a blood transfusion was given before the patient was removed to hospital by ambulance and both mothers made a good recovery.

7. ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

The Harrogate Ante-natal Clinic is held at 2, Dragon Parade, Harrogate, on Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday mornings. Dr. G. O. Rosenvinge, a general practitioner resident in Harrogate, who had special experience in obstetrics, was medical officer to this clinic until the middle of August when his services were terminated as Dr. W. Turner, an additional whole-time Assistant County Medical Officer was appointed to the staff of the Division. Dr. Mary Pullan already on the whole-time staff of the Division, who holds a diploma in obstetrics, took over the duties of this clinic.

The total number of attendances made during the year by 167 expectant mothers was 616.

8. POST-NATAL CLINIC.

No special Post-Natal Clinic is held in the Borough, but 9 post-natal cases were seen at the Ante-natal Clinic.

Many cases confined at the Harrogate General Hospital attend the Post-natal Clinic at the Hospital and cases who are delivered at home have a post-natal examination by their own doctor.

9. RELAXATION CLASSES.

The Relaxation Classes for expectant mothers which are held at 2, Dragon Parade, Harrogate, were well attended during the year.

These classes enable mothers to have an easier time during the delivery of their babies.

10. PREMATURE BIRTHS.

42 premature babies were born to mothers resident in Harrogate, of whom 30 survived for twenty-eight days or more, 4 survived one hour or less, 1 for two weeks, and 7 were still-born.

A Premature Baby Unit was under construction and almost completed, at the Harrogate General Hospital, at the end of the year. It was expected to be in use in January, 1956.

The Sorrento Cot which is kept at the Ambulance Station was not put into use during the year.

11. CARE OF THE UNMARRIED MOTHER AND HER CHILD.

After adjustment for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar General, the number of illegitimate births in Harrogate was 37, which included 2 still-births. The percentage of illegitimate births to total births was 5.8 per cent in 1955 as compared with 6.6 per cent in 1954.

Of these illegitimate births, 1 mother was looked after at St. Monica's Home, a voluntary home for unmarried mothers that is administered by the Harrogate and Knaresborough Association for Moral Welfare. 2 unmarried mothers went to a moral welfare home in Leeds and 1 to a moral welfare home in Scarborough. Only 1 of these mothers referred to has been able to keep her baby.

There is full co-operation between the Diocesan Moral Welfare Worker and the Superintendent Health Visitor, and the Medical Officer of Health is on the Advisory Committee of the Harrogate and Knaresborough Moral Welfare Association.

12. HEALTH VISITING.

In the Borough of Harrogate there are 6 health visitors employed full-time and 7 who are employed part-time. The latter are also employed as health visitors in the Divisional Area outside the Borough. Of these, one is the Divisional Superintendent Health Visitor, one visits cases of tuberculosis, and another is mainly employed in supplying reports on home conditions of chronic sick cases awaiting admission to, or discharge from, Knaresborough Hospital.

Whilst the main responsibility of the health visitors is the visiting of families which contain children under the age of five, an increased proportion of the health visitors' time is being taken up by visiting elderly people, both those who are receiving assistance from the Home Help Service, and those who are not. This work with the aged extends beyond the supervision of the home helps and includes assistance with diets, arrangements for obtaining help and information from other statutory departments, voluntary agents, and religious organisations, and in some cases of getting in contact with relatives to persuade them to render voluntary assistance.

The health visitor dealing with cases of tuberculosis, visits the home when the information of this illness is received and an enquiry form giving full environmental details is completed by the health visitor. This is most valuable in assessing whether the housing of the patient is satisfactory, or whether some priority should be given for providing better housing accommodation. In addition, the health visitor assists in making arrangements for contacts of the cases to be examined for possible infection, at the chest clinic.

With the expanding nature of the health visitors' work, it is important that they should, from time to time, have refresher courses and such residential courses are arranged for the health visitors at five yearly intervals. In addition, lectures on modern aspects covering the work are arranged by the County Council.

13. INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

There are three infant welfare centres in the Borough of Harrogate. The main centre is based at the Harrogate Clinic, 2, Dragon Parade, two sessions being held each week. One session per week is held at the Methodist Church Hall, Starbeck, and one session per week is held at St. Joseph's Church Hall, New Park. At each of these centres National Dried Milk and Vitamins, as well as other welfare foods are available.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

Name and Address of Centre	No. of Infant Welfare Sessions now held per month	No. of Children who first attended a centre of this Local Authority during the year, and who at their first attendance were under 1 yr. of age.	No. of Children who attended during the year and who were born in —			Total number of Children who attended during the year	No. of attendances during the year made by children who at the date of attendance were—			Total attendances during the year
			1955	1954	1953-50		Under 1 yr.	1 but under 2	2 but under 5	
2, Dragon Parade, Harrogate	8	197	166	169	185	520	1,883	436	188	2,507
New Park, Harrogate	4	123	69	69	147	285	1,015	352	492	1,859
Starbeck, Harrogate	4	125	107	82	186	375	1,494	257	496	2,247
Total ..	16	445	342	320	518	1,180	4,392	1,045	1,176	6,613

One of the main objects of these clinics is to give help and advice to the mothers, in order that they will bring up children healthy in body and mind. The emphasis is on help and instruction rather than on treatment. Health Education is assisted by the use of posters and leaflets supplied by the County Council, and in some instances, posters are made by the health visitors themselves.

The attendances at welfare centres are shown in the table on the previous page.

14. SUNLIGHT TREATMENT FOR PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN.

During the year, 21 children under school age were referred from the welfare centres for sunlight treatment.

A number of the children were referred because of frequent attacks of bronchitis or catarrh, others were referred because of failure to make adequate progress, whilst in others there was complaint of lack of appetite, debility, and loss of energy. It is found that this sunlight treatment does have a tonic effect on a child of this class.

15. DAY NURSERIES.

The day nursery situated in Station Avenue closed down at the end of March, 1955. The children attending this nursery were able to be accommodated at the day nursery in Albany Avenue. Station Avenue Day Nursery was opened in 1942, largely as a wartime measure to care for the children of mothers who were undertaking work of national importance. It had performed an excellent service to the community, both by looking after these children and by training student nursery nurses in child care.

The majority of children admitted to the Albany Avenue Day Nursery are those of mothers who are either widowed, divorced, or separated from their husbands, or of mothers who, because of the illness of their husbands, go out to work for the support of their families. In a certain number of cases, the children are illegitimate and the mother is going out to work to provide a home for her child.

The children are medically examined at approximately six monthly intervals and all children who are admitted are examined as soon as possible after admission. A medical officer attends at least once a month at the nursery and immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is usually carried out there.

During 1955, 2 student nurses from the Albany Avenue Day Nursery took the examination for the National Nursery Examination Board Certificate and both were successful.

16. DENTAL TREATMENT OF EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN UNDER FIVE.

During the year, 58 expectant or nursing mothers attended the Dental Clinic at 2, Dragon Parade, Harrogate, for dental examinations, of whom 45 received treatment. Dentures were supplied in 12 cases.

50 children under the age of five years also received treatment at this dental clinic. 42 children received general anaesthetics, and 55 extractions and 18 fillings were done.

17. DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS.

The distribution of welfare foods continued throughout the year, the main centre in Harrogate for their distribution being the Municipal Offices. Welfare foods are also distributed at the infant welfare clinics. The foods comprise National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Cod Liver Oil, and Vitamins A and D Tablets.

17,199 tins of National Dried Milk, 38,126 bottles of Orange Juice, 7,280 bottles of Cod Liver Oil, and 2,667 packets of Vitamins A and D Tablets were issued.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

1. SCHOOL MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

During 1955, 2,132 routine school medical inspections were undertaken. Children are examined as soon as possible after entry to the primary schools, again at the age of seven to eight years, as soon as possible after admission to secondary schools and during the last year of attendance at secondary schools.

In addition, children who are found to be delicate or to have some defect at a previous routine examination are re-inspected when the doctor visits the school, and at any time the parents or teachers may request a special inspection of a school child. The number of special inspections and re-inspections totalled 915.

These medical inspections form the basis of the School Health Service and are in the nature of a consultation between the School Medical Officer, the head teacher and the parent.

2. MINOR AILMENTS CLINICS.

Minor Ailments Clinics are held at Harrogate and Starbeck. The latter is a treatment centre attended by the school nurse only. In the case of the clinic in Harrogate, a school doctor is also in attendance.

The total attendances during the year numbered 595 of which 318 attended the Harrogate Clinic and 177 attended the clinic at Starbeck School.

Minor Ailments when treated early and under medical supervision respond rapidly to treatment and are thus instrumental in preventing any absence from school.

The number of children attending these minor ailments clinics has shown a marked reduction since the introduction of the National Health Service in 1948. Previous to this, many children were treated at these clinics who should have been under the care of their own doctor but who, owing to the cost, were not taken by their parents to their own doctor for treatment.

3. OPHTHALMIC CLINIC.

The Ophthalmic Clinic is held twice weekly at the premises of the Regional Hospital Board at 11, Ripon Road, Harrogate. Appointments for this eye clinic are made through the School Health Service. Dr. Jane Shepherd, the Consultant

Ophthalmologist, unfortunately had to relinquish her work at this clinic owing to pressure of other hospital duties. Her place was taken by Dr. T. Severs who is also a specialist in ophthalmology. The clinic is staffed by a school nurse, the records being maintained at the Municipal Offices. During the year 517 school children obtained spectacles from this clinic.

The Orthoptic Clinic had to be suspended at the end of July, 1955, owing to the resignation of Miss Davey, the Orthoptist, who left to take up work in another area. There were considerable difficulties in obtaining a replacement and this clinic could not be resumed until February, 1956. The clinic is concerned with children who are suffering from squint, and eye exercises are given to help the children overcome this condition.

4. EAR, NOSE AND THROAT CLINIC.

An Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist Clinic is held once a fortnight at the Harrogate Clinic, 2, Dragon Parade.

72 school children and 7 pre-school children were seen at this clinic during the year by Mr. J. E. Rees, the Consultant Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon, making a total number of 123 attendances.

The number of cases who were admitted to the Harrogate General Hospital for the removal of tonsils and adenoids was 39 in 1955. We are fortunate in this area that there is only a small waiting list of children recommended for the removal of tonsils and adenoids.

The main indication for the removal of tonsils and adenoids is a history of frequent sore throats or ear-ache. In certain cases of nasal obstruction it is only necessary for the adenoids to be removed. The removal of tonsils and adenoids has no effect in reducing the frequency of the common cold.

5. ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT.

This clinic, which is held as required, is valuable in ascertaining early cases of postural and other orthopaedic defects, and by instituting treatment such as remedial exercises. It includes both school children and pre-school children.

55 school children and 15 children under school age were seen during the year by Mr. Petty, the Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, making a total number of 111 attendances.

4 school children and 2 pre-school children were referred for operative treatment as short-stay cases only.

5 school children attended the Harrogate and District General Hospital for physiotherapy.

6. CARDIAC CLINIC.

This Clinic was held throughout the year at the Harrogate General Hospital. The reason for holding the clinic at the hospital being that it enables the initial examination of the child, the x-ray screening of the heart and electrocardiograms to be made at one attendance of the patient. The children were seen by Dr. Curtis Bain, the Cardiologist, Dr. L. J. Prosser, the Consultant in Children's Diseases and a Medical Officer from this Division.

The family doctor is asked, before the case comes for examination, for his observations and he is informed of the diagnosis and clinical findings after the investigation is completed.

Advice is given to parents, to head teachers and to the School Dentists, and on occasion to the Youth Employment Officer.

The following is a classification of the cardiac conditions found in the 92 children who attended during the year:—

Normal Hearts	26
Congenital Heart Disease	37
Rheumatic Heart Disease	10
For further investigation	19
	<hr/>
	92

The types of Congenital Heart Disease were:—

Ventricular Septal Defect	10
Mitral incompetence	1
Pulmonary stenosis	5
Patent foramen Ovale	3
Co-arctation of aorta	3
Dextrocardia	1
Eisenmenger's Complex	1
Fallots Tetralogy	1
Patent Ductus Arteriosus	2
Persistent truncus arteriosus	1
Transposition of great vessels and atrial septal defect	1
Sub-aortic stenosis	1
Aortic stenosis	4
Auricular septal defect	1
Anomalous left superior vena cava	1
Mitral stenosis and incompetence and aortic incompetence	1
	<hr/>
	37

Arrangements were made for school children from other Divisions to be seen at this Clinic. 10 new cases from the Ripon Division, 1 new case from the Wetherby Division and 1 from the Otley Division attended during the year. In addition 3 cases attended from the North Riding area.

Cardiac Catheterisation was carried out on 6 cases to assist in the diagnosis. In 2 cases it established that there was no heart disease and in the other 4 cases the presence of congenital heart disease was confirmed and the precise nature of the abnormalities was established. 1 patient, suffering from Patent Ductus Arteriosus, was successfully operated on at Leeds and cured. He has now no need to restrict his activities in any way.

Of the 39 new cases which attended during the year 19 were discharged with normal hearts. The total attendances at the clinic numbered 109 of whom 70 attended for review.

7. SPEECH THERAPY CLINIC.

The number of stammerers treated during the year was 17, 16 boys and 1 girl, which was a very high proportion of boy stammerers.

Careful observation over the past two years has shown that there is often a relapse in stammerers of the ten to eleven years group.

Patients who have made good progress, and in some cases those who have almost forgotten their stammer, have shown a marked increase of nervous tension at this period. One wonders if the pressure of the eleven years plus examination has any bearing on the matter. It is unwise to jump to conclusions, and one must be wary about doing so, but considering that a stammerer is suffering from a speech disorder of nervous origin, and that he is prone to become over stimulated and easily fatigued, whether at work or play, it is reasonable to suggest that the extra mental effort and speed required in preparation for this examination, together with the possible anxiety of parents, may be responsible for this relapse.

Insufficient sleep is another contributory cause of slow progress in some cases of stammering and one wonders how much the radio and television are responsible for so many late nights. The habit of going to bed regularly at an hour suited to the child's age should be established. This co-operation from parents and patient is essential if the work of the speech therapist is to be of any real value in the rehabilitation of the stammerer.

Three sessions are held each week at the Clinic, 2 Dragon Parade, Harrogate, the total number of sessions held during the year being 136.

8. SUNLIGHT CLINIC.

In addition to the 21 children of pre-school age who were referred for treatment to the Sunlight Clinic, details of which are shown on page 36 under the heading of Maternity and Child Welfare, there were 54 school children referred for sunlight treatment.

The majority of school children who were sent for sunlight treatment were suffering from recurrent colds and bronchitis. Others were suffering from debility, failure to gain weight, lack of appetite, or sleeping badly. Sunlight treatment does appear to act as a tonic to these children and to raise their resistance to infection.

9. DISEASES OF THE SKIN.

The number of cases of skin disease which attended at the minor ailments clinics during 1955 totalled 164. In addition, 7 cases of skin disease were found at school inspections and were either referred to, or were under the treatment of, their own doctor.

There were no cases of scabies or ringworm of the scalp during the year.

10. CLEANLINESS — VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

During the year 13,000 examinations were made in the Harrogate schools and 72 individual pupils were found to be infested. This shows a marked reduction in uncleanness from the previous year when 119 children were found to be infested.

In cases of severe infestation with nits or lice, children are treated at the Harrogate Clinic with a D.D.T. preparation and special fine tooth combs are supplied for cleansing the children's heads of nits. There is full co-operation on the part of the teachers, and advice is given to parents and children as to the best methods of dealing with the condition.

11. HANDICAPPED PUPILS.

Handicapped pupils are children who have some form of mental or physical defect and for whom special educational treatment is desirable.

Details of the number of handicapped pupils in Harrogate together with the categories in which they fall, are given on page 44.

It will be noted that the biggest group of handicapped children are educationally sub-normal children who total 13. Of these, 6 are attending special schools and 7 children are in attendance at day schools until such time as places in special schools can be found for them.

During the year, 9 children attended the Child Guidance Clinic at Shipley. Dr. Mary McTaggart left the employment of the West Riding County Council in August 1955, being replaced by Dr. Stephanie Leese, who commenced duty on the 1st October, 1955. Dr. Leese holds a part-time appointment with the West Riding County Council, the remainder of her time being spent in the Department of Psychiatry of the University of Leeds. During the year the County also appointed a Psychiatric Social Worker and an Educational Psychologist, both of whom form part of the Child Guidance Team. Of the 9 Harrogate cases, 3 children were resident at hostels for mal-adjusted children. These children attend local schools for educational purposes.

Whilst the expert investigation of these cases is welcome, there are obvious travelling difficulties for parents of children from Harrogate who attend this clinic at Shipley. Travel vouchers are supplied to the parents and children but this does not compensate for the time expended in travelling to and from the clinic.

12. SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE.

There are two full-time dentists who inspect and treat children attending schools in the Borough of Harrogate.

During 1955, a total of 5,097 Harrogate children were dentally inspected and 2,474 received treatment, the number of attendances being 6,591. 1,393 children received general anaesthetics for dental extractions and 3,372 fillings were done.

CATEGORIES OF HANDICAPPED PUPILS IN THE BOROUGH OF HARROGATE

Categories	No. in attendance at Day Schools or Classes.		No. in Special Residential Schools		No. not attending school	TOTAL
	Within the Area of the Local Education Authority	Outside the Area of the Local Education Authority	Within the Area of the Local Education Authority	Outside the Area of the Local Education Authority		
Blind	—	—	—	—	—	—
Partially Sighted	—	—	—	1	—	1
Deaf	—	—	—	2	1	3
Partially Deaf	—	—	1	—	—	1
Educationally Sub Normal ..	7	—	5	1	—	13
Epileptic Pupils	—	—	—	1	—	1
Maladjusted Pupils	9	—	—	—	—	9
Physically Handicapped	5	—	—	—	—	5
Delicate Pupils	1	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS ..	22	—	6	5	1	34

13. YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE.

There is close co-operation with the Youth Employment Officer. Medical reports are sent to her on children who are about to leave school. This involves the department in considerable work as some 440 children leave Harrogate schools yearly.

14. EMPLOYMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The County Council has Byelaws relating to the employment of children of compulsory school age. Under these byelaws, children are required to be medically examined by the School Medical Officer within two weeks of the date when employment begins, in order to ascertain that such employment will not be prejudicial to the child's health.

54 boys and 10 girls who were undertaking part-time employment as errand boys, shop assistants or in the delivery of newspapers were medically examined during 1955 for this purpose.

15. CHILDREN TAKING PART IN PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT.

8 school children were medically examined to determine their fitness for taking part in stage productions.

The majority of these children were taking part in displays of dancing, and such examinations are carried out under Section 22 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933.

OTHER DIVISIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

1. HOME NURSING SERVICE.

In this Division, the equivalent of 13 full-time nurses undertake nursing in the home.

During the year 1,838 patients were treated, entailing in all a total number of 41,701 visits. 33,014 of these visits were to 1,129 patients who were aged sixty-five years or over, and 338 visits were to 52 children under the age of five years.

The work of these home nurses shows progressive increase during the year. This increase is particularly marked in the visiting of the elderly and chronic sick which showed 3,340 additional visits to those paid in 1954.

2. HOME HELP SERVICE.

This service performs a most valuable function in so far as it enables ill or infirm persons to be kept at home, thus avoiding their costly maintenance in hospital. With constantly increasing demands for this service, it is difficult to keep within the permitted establishment of home helps. Applications for home helps should be made to the staff at The Clinic, 2 Dragon Parade, Harrogate.

At the end of the year, 63 home helps were employed in the Borough of Harrogate on a part-time basis. During 1955, assistance was granted to 373 cases; of these, 86 were to cases of illness in the home, 102 to cases of old age and illness, 132 to cases of old age and infirmity, and 10 to tuberculous patients.

In 11 cases, help was given to expectant mothers, and in 8 cases, help in the home was given where the mother was ill and the children required assistance. In addition, 24 maternity cases were supplied with home helps, enabling the mother to have her baby at home.

The home helps worked a total number of 63,800 hours in 1955 as compared with 56,311 in 1954.

3. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE.

The Mental Health Social Worker is employed partly in Harrogate, the remainder of her work being in the Knaresborough, Nidderdale, Ripon and Pateley Bridge areas. She visits those mental defectives who are living at home or who are in residential employment.

The number of mental defectives in Harrogate at the end of the year was as follows:—

Under Statutory Supervision	28
Under Voluntary Supervision	11
On Licence from Institutions	3

In addition, the Social Worker visits, at the request of relatives, 4 mental defectives who are not "subject to be dealt with" and have not been certified under the Mental Deficiency Acts.

Some defectives are self supporting, 8 of those visited being in full employment. Their occupations are domestic work, errand boy, hotel work, labourer, lorry driver's mate, and newspaper salesman. One boy under Statutory Supervision travels daily to Leeds Industrial Centre where he works in the joinery department.

The number of defectives in institutions who are residents of Harrogate was 55. At the end of the year, 10 cases were awaiting admission to institutions; of these, 9 were under the age of sixteen.

The cases of mental illness visited numbered 4. Of these, 2 were cases requiring care and supervision after discharge from mental hospitals, and 2 were cases awaiting admission to hospital.

Group Training and Home Teaching.

The Home Teacher works in Harrogate and also in Knaresborough, Ripon, and Pateley Bridge areas.

The Group Training Classes under her supervision continue to be popular with the children and their parents. The classes meet twice weekly at The Child Welfare Clinic, 2 Dragon Parade. At the end of the year 5 children were attending.

There was definite improvement after a short time in the children's behaviour and in their response to training. The two girls over school age have done embroidery and knitted garments. Some of the children can do complicated jig-saw puzzles, and most of them do painting, drawing, and modelling. The children's speech has also improved.

The training given to children in their homes is similar to that given in the groups. It is largely training in the use of their hands. 1 child of school age received home training. 4 older defectives were taught to make rugs and knitted garments of quite high standard, at home. This service is much appreciated by the defectives and their parents and guardians.

4. CARE AND AFTER-CARE SERVICE.

Under the National Health Service Act the Local Authority may make arrangements for the care and after-care of persons suffering from illness. One of the ways in which the Local Authority assists is by making arrangements for the loan of nursing equipment such as wheel chairs, bed pans, urinals, rubber bed sheets, air rings, bed rests, etc., to persons in their own homes. A stock of this equipment is held in various centres in the Division.

It is sometimes difficult to draw a dividing line between hospital service responsibility for the provision of appliances and equipment. It is usual for the hospital to undertake responsibility for providing such articles as invalid chairs, tricycles, and crutches, etc., when required for permanent disabilities, whereas equipment required to meet a temporary need only is loaned by the Local Health Authority.

Mrs. Spurr continued in her duties as the health visitor who is mainly employed in supplying reports on the home conditions of aged patients whose admission to the Knaresborough Hospital is sought.

When a diabetic patient is discharged from hospital the general practitioner may obtain the services of a home nurse for the administration of insulin injections, or the services of a health visitor to give explanation and advice on the diet recommended by the hospital physician and to advise on the method of administering insulin and the care and sterilisation of syringes. General practitioners desiring these services inform the Medical Officer of Health and, in certain more urgent cases, if the hospital physician feels that such services are imperative for the patient, he recommends in his letter to the general practitioner that unless he hears to the contrary, he will arrange for the Medical Officer of Health to provide this nursing assistance and advice.

5. RECUPERATIVE HOME TREATMENT.

During the year 10 applications were received for recuperative home treatment but in 1 case the applicant withdrew the application leaving 9 cases to be dealt with.

Three men who were suffering from tuberculosis were sent to a convalescent home in Northumberland for this type of case, with excellent results.

Two housewives, one suffering from severe nervous exhaustion and one from general debility, were sent to a convalescent home at Bridlington, and the change away from home was beneficial in both cases.

Three children were sent for recuperative treatment, one was a boy and the other two were girls. The boy had had recurrent colds and attacks of bronchitis and lived in rather poor housing conditions. His mother was also debilitated. He was sent for four weeks treatment to a convalescent home on the moors, and his general condition improved considerably. He was sleeping better and had more energy and his bronchitis had almost completely cleared up. One of the girls was sent to a convalescent home by the seaside for a period of four weeks. She had been suffering from a chronic skin infection. Whilst at this convalescent home, she gained seven pounds in weight, her general condition improved, and although the skin infection had not completely cleared, it was much less severe. The third child was sent to West Kirby Convalescent Home for four weeks convalescence on account of general debility. Unfortunately at the end of the period of treatment she developed a feverish cold. She had been very happy at the home and her appetite and general condition had shown improvement.

An elderly man was recommended for convalescent treatment but did not settle at the home and returned the following day.

6. REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION OF DISABLED AND OLD PERSONS' HOMES.

At the end of 1955, there were 11 homes in Harrogate registered under the National Assistance Act as Disabled and Old Persons' Homes, 5 run by voluntary agencies, and 6 privately owned. They are registered to accommodate a total of 145 residents.

3 of these homes were registered for the first time during the year. One of these was the Avondale Home for Elderly People which is run on a non-profit making basis by a voluntary committee. Those entering the home are provided with a bed sitting room and the necessary appliances for cooking simple meals. Included in the charge made to the residents is a mid-day meal which is served for all the residents in the dining room. On admission the residents are able to bring with them their own furniture and furnishings for their bedrooms. There are also communal sitting rooms, in one of which a television set is provided.

7. REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION OF NURSING HOMES.

At the end of 1954, there were 17 registered nursing homes in Harrogate. During 1955, 1 closed down, making a total of 16 homes on the register at the end of the year. These homes were all inspected during the year by the medical staff of the Division.

The total number of beds in these nursing homes at the end of 1955 for maternity cases was 12 and for general purposes 129. This is a decrease of 6 beds, all of which were used for general purposes.

8. SOCIAL WORKERS' GROUP.

The Social Workers' Group held 11 meetings during the year. The object of this group is to co-ordinate the work of the statutory and voluntary agencies concerned with social welfare in the district.

The activities fall into two groups. Open meetings are held where social workers of the Divisional Area are invited to hear talks by their colleagues working in the various branches of the social services. These are valuable in giving the social workers knowledge of the scope of each others work. There were 4 of these open meetings during 1955 at which the following talks were given:—

Dr. P. S. R. Burrell, Senior Assistant County Medical Officer :
“Handicapped and Educationally Sub-normal Children.”

Mr. C. N. Austwick, Superintendent and Welfare Officer of the Harrogate and District Society for the Deaf: "The Work of the Society for the Deaf."

Miss Houseman, Visitor to the Blind: "The Welfare of the Blind."

Dr. D. D. Payne, Divisional Medical Officer: "Recent Views on Alcoholism."

Meetings are also held of the Social Workers' Committee at which individual cases of problem families, or potential problem families, are discussed, and information known to the various members of this committee is pooled to avoid overlapping. 7 meetings of this committee were held during the year.

9. HEALTH EDUCATION.

Talks and courses of lectures in health matters are given during the year by the doctors and health visitors on the staff of this division. This health instruction was given to youth organisations, various adult organisations, and parent teacher associations. In addition, talks were given at all the senior schools on the value of B.C.G. vaccination in the prevention of tuberculosis.

The health visitors primary function is health education. In the past this was mainly a matter of persuading mothers to attend the various clinics with their children, to inform them regarding the treatment and spread of infection, and to give instructions on infant diets and providing the best type of meals for the family. At the present time, the scope of health education has greatly widened, such matters as the prevention of accidents in the home and the discussion with parents on behaviour problems in the family are often necessary. Such instruction is largely informal and given by the health visitor on her periodic visits to the family. It is not infrequent that during the course of general conversation matters are raised by the mother on which she desires help and advice. Talks are also given at the child welfare centres, the ante-natal clinic, and in the schools, both individually and in groups.

Two health visitors have been asked to undertake mothercraft classes to senior girls as a regular part of the school curriculum, and mothercraft classes for expectant mothers, combined with their relaxation therapy, have been taken by two health visitors.

Verbal instruction is augmented by leaflets, posters, and other visual aids, and films are shown from time to time.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR & CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE YEAR 1955.

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Harrogate.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit for your consideration my ninth annual report of the work carried out by the sanitary and cleansing services of the department for the year 1955.

The work of the department during the year has moved smoothly and the results obtained have been very satisfactory.

The re-organisation of the public slaughterhouse has been completed and a detailed routine of duties put into operation. The building and equipment are equal to any demands likely to be placed upon them.

Food hygiene has figured largely in the manifold duties carried out by the department and the standard set in past years has been maintained and in many cases improved.

The purchase of the "Muledozer" for work on the tip has proved to be a valuable acquisition from both a financial and technical point of view. A few more acres of waste land have been reclaimed and are now serving a useful purpose.

The survey of property under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, was completed and machinery set in motion to clear away the remarkably few houses which are unfit for human habitation.

There were no changes in the staff and every credit is due to them for the manner in which they carried out their respective duties.

I would like to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health and Housing Committees for their support and assistance, and to the Medical Officer of Health and officials of other Departments for their advice and co-operation during the year.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. DODSWORTH,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.
Cleansing Superintendent.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

GENERAL

Harrogate, which has an area of 8,320 acres, enjoys an open situation on top of the Yorkshire Moorlands at 350 to 600 feet above sea level. It lies on an anti-cline or ridge of disturbance caused by a volcanic upheaval which was not sufficiently powerful to make an active crater.

This geological upheaval, however, has led to the exposing of strata usually lying at a deep level and is responsible for one of the most amazing collections of mineral springs ever discovered. Some 88 springs all differing in mineral content arise within a small area in the centre of the town. As the result of the valuable medicinal properties of these springs, Harrogate has grown within the past 100 years from two small hamlets to one of the largest and most important spas and holiday centres in Europe.

Meteorology.—The Harrogate Meteorological Station, which is under the control of the Borough Engineer is situated at the Northern Sewage Disposal Works, Bilton, from which the following observations were taken:—

Sunshine.—1,526.1 hours of sunshine were recorded during the year. The sunniest day being 29th May, 1955, when 13.7 hours were recorded.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall recorded during the year was 22.06 inches, the wettest day being the 4th February, 1955, when .07 inches of rain was recorded.

Temperatures.—The maximum temperature during the year was 82 degrees F., recorded on the 16th July, 1955, and the minimum temperature 12 degrees F. was recorded on the 2nd December, 1955.

Wind.—The prevailing wind during the year was westerly.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply of Harrogate and the surrounding district is impounded in reservoirs on two moorland gathering areas. The supply is abundant, pure and wholesome, distribution being undertaken by the Corporation Water Department.

From information received from this Department the total amount of filtered water supplied during the year ending 31st December, 1955, was 938 million gallons. The average daily consumption of water per head of the population is 36.73 gallons, an average of 10.37 gallons per head per day for industrial purposes and 26.36 gallons per head per day for domestic purposes.

Extensions to the mains have been carried out in the following districts and roads during the year 1955.

Almsford Estate.	Hill Top Avenue.
Ashville Grove.	Hill Top Mount.
Balmoral Drive.	Hill Top Road.
Burn Bridge Close.	Hookstone Wood Road.
Eleanor Road.	Kent Drive.
Firs Close.	Lancaster Park Drive.
Firs Road.	Leadhall Road.
Forest Avenue.	St. Leonard's Road.
Forest Rise.	St. Ronan's Road North.
Greenfields Road.	Stanhope Drive.
Greenway.	Woodfield Road.
Gordon Avenue.	Woodlands Close.

Samples of water are taken regularly from the town's mains at various points within the Borough for chemical and bacteriological examination.

Number of samples examined	...	...	189
Being samples of water from:—			
Domestic supplies (Town's Mains)			189
Number of samples, found upon			
examination to be satisfactory	...		189

In the new portions of the Borough, which were incorporated on the 1st April, 1938, from the Wetherby Rural District and the Knaresborough Rural District Councils, there are still 15 houses which obtain their supply from wells and springs.

REPORTS ON SAMPLES OF WATER

	No. 1026		No. 1028	
	Harlow Hill, Roundhill and Scargill		Irongate Bridge, Roundhill, Beaverdyke, and "Tank Spring."	
Date taken	17.11.55		17.11.55	
Appearance	Clear and bright		Clear and bright	
Odour on warming	None		None	
Colour of 2ft. column (Lovibond Units)	0.8 yellow + 0.4. blue		0.6 yellow + 0.2 blue	
Sediment	None		None	
Reaction	pH = 7.2		pH = 7.1	
Action on bright surface lead during 12 hrs.	Very slight		Very slight	
This sample contains —	Grains per Gall.	Parts per 100,000	Grains per Gall.	Parts per 100,000
Total solids dried at 100°C	7.84	11.20	7.00	10.00
Chlorides, equivalent to chlorine	1.09	1.55	0.98	1.40
Nitrates, equivalent to nitrogen	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nitrites, equivalent to nitrogen	nil	nil	nil	nil
Free and saline ammonia	0.0146	0.0208	0.0140	0.0200
Albuminoid ammonia	0.0034	0.0048	0.0025	0.0036
Oxidation demand during 4 hours at 26.5°C				
from potassium permanganate	0.075	0.107	0.074	0.105
from sodium hypochlorite	—	—	—	—
Metallic contamination	nil	nil	nil	nil
Hardness (Clark Degrees) —				
Temporary, removal by boiling	1.5	2.2	2.4	3.1
Permanent, after boiling	2.1	2.9	1.5	2.2
Total	3.6	5.1	3.9	5.6
Average number of bacteria growing on nutrient agar after 72 hours incubation at 20°C per 1 ml.	7		18	
Average number of bacteria growing on nutrient agar after 72 hours incubation at 37°C per 1 ml.	3		9	
Coliform bacteria after 48 hours incubation at 37°C per 100 ml.	0		0	

Observations:—According to the above results, the condition of this water was satisfactory for public supply at the time of examination (Class 1).

Plumbo-Solvency of Water Supplies.

Four samples of water were submitted for analysis under the above heading and found to be satisfactory.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The following table shows the number of pail closets, earth closets and cesspools, etc., in the Borough at the end of December, 1955.

Pail and Tub Cosets	...	...	...	27
Privies without Ash Pits	...	...	...	4
Privies with Open Middens	...	...	...	3
Privies with Covered Middens	...	...	...	15
Waste Water-closets	...	...	...	21
Cesspools	...	...	...	60

All pail closets are emptied either once or twice weekly.

Cesspools are emptied by means of a cesspool emptier as and when required.

A small number of pail and tub closets were replaced by water-closets during the year. The number of cesspools increased owing to houses being built in the rural parts of the town where no main drainage is provided.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

These come under the supervision of the Yorkshire Ouse River Board, and are also kept under observation by the department. No complaints were received by the department though the pollution of one stream took place on several occasions.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Complaints reported to the Public Health Department.	619
Where nuisances were found	526
Where complaint was received and no nuisance found	93
Under Housing Acts	816
Where infectious disease occurred	73
Bakehouse (Power)	123
Bakehouse (No Power)	15
Farms	34
Dairies and Milkshops	321
Ice-cream	248
Fish frying premises	72
Fish shops (wet)	375

Food preparing premises	302
Food storage premises	697
Food inspection	354
Market	6
Shops	314
Restaurants	43
Kitchens	258
Slaughterhouses (Starbeck)	892
for meat inspection (West Park)	321
Butchers' Shops	120
Factories (Power)	136
Factories (No Power)	28
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	113
Theatres and Cinemas	2
Sanitary conveniences—public	24
Sanitary conveniences—private	15
Schools	17
Tents and Vans	99
Public Cleansing	176
Refuse Tips	342
Stables	33
Piggeries	2
Overcrowding	4
Outworkers	8
Offices	8

Other Visits or Inspections

Drainage	702
Interviews	507
Investigations of infestation of insect pests (excluding bugs)	141
Investigation of bug infestations	158
Smoke observations	16
Visits re water supplies and water samples	132
Visits under Food and Drugs Act for samples	376
Visits to Laboratories	48
Visits to property under notice or work in progress ...	1,355
Installation of new sanitary fittings	289
Food poisoning investigations	2
Rag Flock Etc., Act 1951	14
Old Metal and Marine Stores	10
Pet Animals Act, 1951	12

Hairdressers and Barbers	31
Food Hawkers	15
Fireguard Regulations	85
Miscellaneous visits	2,179
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	13,082
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ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES

Drainage reconstructed	1
Drainage, repaired, trapped, etc.	1
Drainage unstopped	7
Soil or vent pipes—new fixed	2
Soil or vent pipes—repaired	2
Water-closets—repaired or supplied with water	6
Water-closets—new pans or pedestals fixed	5
Water-closets—additional constructed	3
Water-closets—abolished	1
Water-closets—(fresh) provided in lieu of waste water-cosets	1
Waste pipes—repaired or trapped	18
Waste pipes—or rain-water pipes disconnected from drains	6
Rain-water pipes and eaves gutters repaired or renewed	54
Sinks provided or replaced	2
Accumulations of refuse removed	4
Animals, fowls, etc., removed	2
Brickwork or pointing repaired	7
Dampness remedied	23
Doors, repaired, etc.	21
Dustbins supplied	355
Fireplaces, stoves and flues repaired	26
Flooring and other woodwork, repaired or renewed	10
Floors—concrete or quarried repaired or renewed	6
Gas fittings or services repaired	1
Gullies in street unstopped	1
Plaster repaired	38
Rat infestations abated	109
Rent books made to comply with regulations of Housing Act	4
Roofs made weathertight	61
Walls and ceilings cleansed	15
Water supplies reinstated or made sufficient	12
Windows—cords, fasteners and glass repaired or renewed	47

Ventilation improved	4
Verminous rooms disinfested	27
Yards and passages paved	8
Miscellaneous	4

STATUTORY NOTICES

Number of Legal Notices Issued for Abatement of Nuisances				
	Served 1955	Complied with during 1955	Served 1954	Complied with during 1954/55
Harrogate Corporation Act, 1953, Section 48	3	3	10	10
Public Health Act, 1936, Section 39 ...	13	7	18	18
Public Health Act, 1936, Section 45 ...	3	1	—	—
Public Health Act, 1936, Section 56 ...	2	1	10	10
Public Health Act, 1936, Section 75 ..	10	10	13	13
Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93 ..	30	20	31	31
TOTAL ..	61	42	82	82

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

It was not found necessary to take any legal proceedings during 1955.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Premises inspected where notifiable diseases have occurred	63
Articles destroyed by burning at request of owners	54
Total visits paid to infected premises	73

DISINFECTANT

During the year seven gallons of disinfectant fluid were supplied to the public free of charge, for use in premises where cases of infectious disease, etc., had occurred.

LIBRARY BOOKS

Seventy-eight books which had been in contact with cases of infectious diseases were withdrawn from circulation and disinfected before being returned to the library.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

There are two public indoor swimming baths in the Borough, both owned by the Corporation, each being equipped with continuous filtration and chlorination plants.

During the season from April to September a total of thirty-nine chemical and thirty-nine bacteriological samples of water were taken from these baths.

All these samples were satisfactory.

DISINFESTATION

Once again there was a considerable reduction in the number of premises requiring disinfestation and for a town of this size the figures are intriguing. One is forced to the conclusion that either the town is extraordinarily free from vermin or that the public are availing themselves of the excellent insecticides which are now on sale in the shops and carrying out their own disinfestation.

Type of Premises							No.
Corporation Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Private Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Businesses	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
TOTAL							76

Classification									No.
Beetles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Bed Bugs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Cockroaches	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Crickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Fleas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Flies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Moths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Steamflies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Wasps	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Woodworm	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

RAT AND MICE DESTRUCTION

There was a slight increase in the number of complaints received of rat and mice infestation. The figures given for the number of bodies found would appear to be out of proportion to the number of premises involved but it must be remembered that many rats and mice die under cover and consequently it is impossible to state accurately how many rats or mice have actually been poisoned. What is more important, however, is to know that the disinfestation has been efficiently and effectively carried out.

The following gives details of the work carried out during 1955 :—

		Com- plaints received	No. of premises involved	Total No. of visits	No. of complete treat- ments	Bodies found
Private Dwellings	rats mice	105 53	191 65	608 291	43 46	52 2
Business Premises	rats mice	31 17	111 81	726 594	58 46	46 2
Agricultural Premises	rats mice	— —	4 —	5 —	— —	— —
Local Authorities	rats mice	1 1	12 1	87 1	8 —	13 —
Total	rats mice	137 71	318 147	1,426 886	109 92	111 4

DISINFESTATION OF SEWERS

The number of rats in sewers has steadily diminished and the position as far as infestation is concerned is a very satisfactory one. A period of six months is allowed to elapse between first and second treatment of sewers. Details are given below :—

Type of Treatment	No. of man- holes pre- baited	No. of takes	No. of man- holes poison baited
10% Test (1 in 10 manholes on the foul water system tested)	197	11	N.A.
First Maintenance Treatment ...	184	20	20
Second Maintenance Treatment ...	64	12	12

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

There is only a slight variation in the results enumerated in the following table from the one in the previous year.

The number and type of factories and workplaces remains fairly constant and no major changes have occurred during the year.

Factories, Factories (No Mechanical Power) and Workplaces.

Premises inspected	164
Premises inspected and found satisfactory	150
Premises inspected and found unsatisfactory	14
Factories where defects were found and referred by H.M. Inspector	None
Reports on action taken sent to H.M. Inspector	None
Number of defects remedied as a result of H.M. Inspector's notification	None

List of Defects Found in Factories, Factories (No mechanical power) and Workplaces.

Cleanliness, want of	9
Sanitary conveniences:—	
Insufficient	1
Unsuitable or defective	8
Other defects	6

REGISTERED FACTORIES, FACTORIES ACT, 1937

	Mechanical Power	No Mechanical Power
Aerated Water	2	
Agricultural Machinery	1	
Baking	36	7
Beer Bottling	2	
Bicycle Repairs	1	1
Blacksmith		1
Boot and Shoe Repairs	13	5
Brickmaking	1	
Burling and Mending	1	
Chocolate and Sweet Manufacture	3	1
Chromium Plating	1	
Coal and Gas Manufacture	1	
Corn Milling	1	
Dentures	2	
Dress Making	7	11
Dry Cleaning	2	1
Egg Packing	1	
Electric Generating	1	
Electric and Radio Repairs	7	
Engineering	4	
Fireguard Conversion		1

Firewood Cutting	2	
French Polishing	2	1
Furrier	3	
Gas Fitting Repairs	1	
Ham Boiling	1	
Ice and Ice-cream Manufacture	1	
Jam Manufacture	1	
Joinery, Cabinet Making	40	4
Laundries	11	1
Leatherwork	1	
Lenses and Grinding	1	
Letter Press Printing	7	
Malting	2	
Metal Engraving	2	
Milk Pasteurisation	2	
Millinery		5
Monumental Engraving	1	
Motor Spirit Storage	1	
Motor Vehicle Repairs	42	
Paper Baling	1	
Perambulator Manufacture	2	
Photography	2	3
Picture Framing		2
Plumbing		4
Raincoat Manufacture	1	
Refractory fire-boxes	1	
Rubber Products	1	
Salt Packing		1
Sausage Making and Pies	10	1
Shirt Making	1	
Signwriting	1	2
Slipper Making		1
Soft Furnishings	1	
Stone Dressing and Breaking	2	
Tailoring	5	17
Tinsmith	3	
Tyre Repairs	1	
Upholstery	4	2
Watch Repairs	4	1
Weaving	2	
Weighing Machine Repairs	1	
Whitesmith	3	
	<hr/> 254	<hr/> 73
	<hr/>	<hr/>

OUTWORKERS

Notifications received from employers and other authorities show that there were two outworkers engaged in making wearing apparel in the Borough.

In each case the conditions were satisfactory.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No serious problem presented itself as far as smoke was concerned. A number of complaints were received and quickly dealt with. All the nuisances were caused by incompetent stoking.

HOUSES

The survey under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, was completed during the year.

Inspections were carried out on some 511 houses of various types and only 64 found to be unfit for human habitation.

As the figure for houses scheduled for demolition is a low one the whole scheme is expected to be completed within the next two years.

I. Inspection of Dwelling-houses During the Year:—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Acts)	306
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	1,251
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (including under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations	—
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	
	(2)	(a) Visits to the properties already recorded in	—
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	72
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive to those referred to under the proceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	291

II. Remedy of Defects During the Year Without Service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	143
---	-----

III. Action Under Statutory Powers During the Year:—

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | 1 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices | |
| (a) by owners | — |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | — |

B.—Proceedings Under Public Health Acts :—

- | | |
|---|----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 49 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices | |
| (a) by owners | 30 |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | — |

C.—Proceedings Under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | | |
|-----|--|---|
| (1) | Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for habitation ... | 1 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | — |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | — |
| (4) | Action under Sections 10 and 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 | 8 |
| | houses closed | |

D.—Proceedings Under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	6
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

E.—Proceedings Under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of Clearance Areas represented during the year	—
(2) Number of houses included in these areas...	—
(3) Number of persons to be displaced	—
(4) Action taken during the year in respect of Clearance Areas	
(a) by Clearance Orders number made	—
(b) by Compulsory Purchase Orders number made	—
(5) Number of houses in Clearance Areas demolished during the year	3
(6) Number of persons re-housed from houses demolished during the year	10

F.—Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 :—

(1) Number of Certificates of Disrepair granted during the year	39
(2) Number of Certificates of Disrepair revoked during the year	17

Information re Land Charges.

Requests for information were received and dealt with in respect of 1,513 properties.

HARROGATE CORPORATION ACT, 1935, SECTION 46

There are three sites with more than one van or shed and five sites with only one van at present in use. Routine inspections are carried out and a careful check is kept on the movement of caravans and sheds.

The following licences were issued.

Part time occupation		Full time occupation	
Sheds	Vans	Sheds	Vans
38	7	—	25

Inspections 99.

WEST RIDING COUNTY COUNCIL (General Powers) ACT, 1951

Section 75—Slaughter of Animals otherwise than for human consumption.

Section 76—Registration of Food Hawkers.

Personal registrations	36
Storage Accommodation	23
Inspections	15

Section 120—Hairdressers and Barbers.

Registered	68
Inspections	31

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Registered Premises ... 9. Inspections ... 14.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Licensed Premises ... 6. Inspections ... 12.

PUBLIC HEALTH AMENDMENT ACT, 1907

Marine and Old Metal Dealers

Registered ... 9. Inspections ... 10.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The inspection and supervision of food again figured largely in the work of the department. The public are becoming very conscious of food hygiene and are quick to note and report on any offences they may see in the daily round. Certain women's organisations in the town discussed the question of food handling at their various meetings and showed a lively interest in the matter. This is all to the good and is of great assistance to the inspectors carrying out a difficult and at times a thankless job.

Food premises generally have been brought up to a good standard and are well equipped. Unfortunately the human element is still the most important part of the trade and constant supervision is required to ensure that the most modern equipment sited in hygienic surroundings is used in a clean and satisfactory manner, and more important still, is maintained in such a condition. The education of the food handler is a difficult task owing to the tendency of large numbers of them to move on to other types of work.

MILK SUPPLY : MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

Registered	On Register Dec. 31st, 1955
Dairies 	23
Milk Distributors 	113

Number of milk distributors resident in Borough: 108.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1953.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 to 1954.

The following licences were granted during 1955.

Type of Licence	Number
Dealers Tuberculin Tested Milk 	61
Supplementary Dealers Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	1
Milk Pasteurisers H.T.S.T. (in respect of two plants) 	3
Holder 	1
Dealers Pasteurised Milk 	52
Dealers Sterilised Milk 	49
Supplementary Dealers Sterilised Milk 	1

Examination of Milk by the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Tests.

One sample of milk failed to pass the methylene blue test.

This is the first failure in three years. The matter was referred to the Milk Regulations Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Class of Milk	Numbers of samples tested	Appropriate Tests	Number of samples	
			Passed	Failed
Pasteurised ...	32 28	Phosphatase ... Methylene Blue ...	32 28	— —
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	32 28	Phosphatase ... Methylene Blue ...	32 28	— —
Tuberculin Tested	10	Methylene Blue ...	9	1
Total	130	Total	129	1

Summary of Chemical Analysis of Milk Samples for 1955.

One hundred and fifteen samples of milk were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination for fat and solids not fat content. The presumptive standard for milk is not less than 3 per cent fat and 8.5 per cent solids not fat.

The average figures do not vary to any extent from year to year. For example the fat content in 1953 was .02 below this year's figures with a similar result in the case of solids not fat.

Period	No. of samples Examined	Averages	
		Fat %	Solids not Fat %
January	11	3.94%	8.77%
February	13	3.87%	9.01%
March	16	3.36%	8.56%
Quarter ending 31/3/55. ...	40	3.72%	8.78%
April	4	3.64%	8.65%
May	6	3.55%	8.64%
June	6	3.65%	8.99%
Quarter ending 30/6/55. ...	16	3.61%	8.76%
July	6	3.60%	8.90%
August	11	3.36%	8.74%
September	6	4.01%	8.39%
Quarter ending 30/9/55. ...	23	3.66%	8.68%
October	14	4.00%	8.38%
November	16	3.54%	8.62%
December	6	3.71%	8.68%
Quarter ending 31/12/55. ...	36	3.75%	8.56%
Year ending 31/12/55. ...	115	3.69%	8.70%
Year ending 31/12/54. ...	98	3.84%	8.74%

EXAMINATION OF MILK

Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, Section 8, and Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, Article 20.

Thirteen samples of milk were submitted for examination for tubercle bacilli. Two of these were returned as positive. In both cases the cow affected by the disease was slaughtered and further tests on the remainder of the herds were returned as negative.

Fifty-six samples of milk were examined for brucella abortus. In three cases notices were served on farmers under Article 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, as follows:—

- (1) Notice served 5th May, 1955, and withdrawn 23rd June, 1955. One cow was slaughtered. During the period of the notice the milk was heat treated. This case arose as the result of a routine sample.

- (2) Notice served 17th May, 1955, and withdrawn 25th May, 1955. One cow was slaughtered and the milk was heat treated during the period of the notice. The investigation in this case followed a report of a person suffering from Undulant Fever.
- (3) Notice served 29th August, 1955, and still in force at 31st Dec., 1955. The investigations are still continuing and there appears to have been a history of abortion in this herd for several years. A prosecution was taken against the farmer for contravention of the notice and he was fined £10 at the Harrogate Borough Court on the 1st November, 1955.

Registration of Premises Used for the Manufacture, Storage or Sale of Food.

Fifteen new applications were received for the sale and storage of ice-cream. The figure rises steadily each year and one wonders if the consumption of ice-cream is increasing pro rata to the number of premises selling the commodity. The major quantity of ice-cream sold in the Borough is of the fully wrapped variety. It would appear that the consumption of loose ice-cream in the form of cornets or sandwiches is more popular at the sea-side than in the ordinary centres of habitation.

	Premises on Register, 1954	Premises on Register, 1955
Sale and Storage of ice-cream ..	173	188
Manufacture of ice-cream ...	10	10
Manufacture of preserved food ...	45	46
Butter, margarine, wholesale dealers or factories	1	1

EXAMINATION OF ICE-CREAM

Thirty-three samples of ice-cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination and the results were not entirely satisfactory. The failures occurred during the very hot weather and each case was very carefully checked in order to find the cause of the trouble. The investigations showed that in the majority of instances the equipment had not been effectively sterilised.

Provisional Grade					
	One	Two	Three	Four	Total
Produced in the Borough	3	6	2	2	13
Produced outside the Borough	10	4	4	2	20

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOOD

I am happy to report that the public slaughterhouse had another successful year from a financial and administrative point of view. The utmost co-operation was received from the local butchers with the result that work proceeded in a very smooth manner with no friction or difficulties.

Certain alterations were carried out which facilitated the handling of animals and carcasses and every effort was made to keep the premises in a clean and hygienic condition.

100 per cent meat inspection was carried out and this entailed the inspectors working overtime.

The value of meat inspection can be seen from the table showing the quantities condemned as unfit for human consumption and I would like to pay tribute to the inspectors for the skill and integrity shown by them in this particular branch of their work.

There is only one private slaughterhouse operating inside the Borough.

Detailed below is a table of unsound meat condemned during the year as unfit for human consumption.

	Whole Carcases		Part Carcases		Offal		Total	
	T.B.	Other Causes	T.B.	Other Cause	T.B.	Other Causes	T.B.	Other Causes
Cattle (Excluding Cows)	3,357	555	1,837	806	5,938	12,078	11,132	13,439
Cows	—	300	—	—	—	62	—	362
Calves	—	260	—	—	20	101	20	361
Sheep and Lambs	—	152	—	8	—	363	—	523
Pigs	1,064	365	622	—	2,247	1,478	3,933	1,843
Totals	4,421	1,632	2,459	814	8,205	14,082	15,085	16,528

Figures represent weight in lbs.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ...	2,910	19	733	10,909	4,080
Number inspected ...	2,910	19	733	10,909	4,080
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcases con- demned	1	1	6	3	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1,319	—	5	154	459
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affec- ted with disease other than tubercu- losis and cysticerci	45.36%	5.26%	1.50%	1.43%	11.34%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases con- demned	6	—	—	—	8
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	349	—	3	—	237
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis	12.20%	0.00%	0.41%	0.00%	6.00%
Cysticercosis					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by re- frigeration	10	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	1	—	—	—	—

Cysticercus Bovis

The percentage of animals affected with cysticercus bovis is the lowest recorded since systematic examination of carcasses was commenced. All the infestations were light in character with the exception of one beast which was generalised.

Year	Animals Slaughtered	Number Affected		Percentage affected
		English and Scotch origin	Irish Origin	
1949	4,203	40	11	1.21
1950	5,334	33	19	.98
1951	5,175	29	30	1.14
1952	4,793	31	14	.93
1953	4,906	46	5	1.04
1954	4,732	36	10	.97
1955	3,662	11	—	.30

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933 to 1954

Only 34 slaughtermen were registered at the end of 1955 as against 54 in 1954. This was due to 20 men not applying for renewal of their licences.

Number of slaughtermen on register at 31/12/1954 ...	54
Applications for licences considered during 1955 ...	34
Number of slaughtermen on register at 31/12/1955 ...	34

PARTICULARS OF OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED DURING THE YEAR 1955.

Once again there was a marked fall in the tonnage of food condemned during the year. I suggested last year that the reduced quantities might be due to the cold summer but a similar reason cannot be put forward for this year's results. One must, therefore, presume that a higher standard of preparation and storage is now operating in food production.

Miscellaneous Tinned Foods				Tins	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Oz.
Beans	...	...	...	49			3	16	3
Fish	...	...	...	149		2	2	1	15
Fruit	...	...	...	270		7	2	22	1
Fruit Juice	...	...	...	54		1	1	15	12
Jam	...	...	...	10				15	14
Marmalade	...	...	...	1					12
Meat	...	...	...	540	1	1	1	25	14
Milk	...	...	...	144		1	3	13	3
Paste	...	...	...	1					2
Peas	...	...	...	36				23	12
Pickles	...	...	...	1				24	6
Pudding	...	...	...	7				14	10
Soup	...	...	...	24			1	3	8
Spaghetti	...	...	...	1					8
Syrup	...	...	...	8				16	
Vegetables	...	...	...	277		2	3	20	6
General									
Bacon	...	...	...	8			3	4	5
Butter	...	...	...	6				6	
Cheese	...	...	...	36		1	3	20	9
Confectionery	...	...	...	54				15	11
Chinese Frozen Egg	...	...	...	2			3	4	
Desiccated Coconut	...	...	...	1				6	8
Egg Albumen	...	...	...	1			1	14	
Fish	...	...	...	1			1	14	
Honey	...	...	...	1				1	1
Onions	...	...	...	65	1	1	3	26	10
Pickles	...	...	...	14				16	12
Sausages	...	...	...	25			1	5	
Sweets	...	...	...	49			1	2	
Yeast	...	...	...	151		1	1	11	
Dried Fruit									
Prunes	...	...	...	1				6	
Raisins	...	...	...	1			1	2	
Flour and Cereals									
Biscuits	...	...	...	8				2	
Oats	...	...	...	1			1	5	
Total				1,997	3	9	—	13	6

WORK CARRIED OUT AT FOOD PREMISES

The number of defects found on food premises was again lower than in previous years. A considerable amount of work was carried out by owners on their own initiative and the results were very satisfactory to all concerned. Staff problems are still a difficult matter and it is much easier to attract employees to premises whose construction is of a high hygienic standard. Maintenance work is reduced to a minimum and conditions are just that little bit better to work in. The public are attracted to shops of simple and modern design with equipment that looks and is clean. The attention of the department is, of course, more concerned with the conditions which exist at the rear rather than the front of premises concerned in the handling of food, but a satisfactory facade often reflects the standards operating elsewhere.

Walls, ceilings, floors, etc., repaired	...	...	..	13
Walls, ceilings, floors, etc., cleansed	...	...	...	2
Articles, apparatus, clothing cleansed	...	...	...	7
Washing facilities provided (personal)	...	...	...	1
Double sinks provided and washing facilities improved (utensils and crockery)	...	...	...	3
Kitchen fittings re-sited	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	17

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

During the year 119 samples were taken, 82 of these being formal and 37 informal samples.

Formal	Informal	Article
2	—	Beef Sausage
80	35	Milk
	1	Shrimps
	1	White Chocolate
82	37	

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Of the samples analysed 16 of those taken were reported to be not genuine, details of which and the action in regard thereto are as follows:—

Sample No.	Formal or Informal	Article	Adulteration or Other Irregularity	Action Taken
160	Formal	Milk	Contained 4.8% added water and only 92% of the minimum amount of fat required.	Further samples were taken and as a result of these a warning letter was sent to the producer.
170	Formal	Pork Sausage	Contained only 47.6% of meat.	A warning letter was sent to the butcher concerned.
184	Informal	Peeled Shrimps	Showed dark discolouration due to traces of iron contamination during course of processing.	The packers were informed.
195	Formal	Milk	Contained only 84.4% of the minimum amount of fat required.	Further samples were taken and as a result of these a warning letter was sent to the producer.
196	Formal	Milk	Contained only 82.4% of the minimum amount of fat required.	Further samples were taken and as a result of these a warning letter was sent to the producer.
204 208	Formal Formal	Milk	No. 204 contained 4.3% added water and No. 208 contained 3.8% added water.	The two defendants were fined £5 and £2 respectively and costs at the Harrogate Magistrates Court on the 8th Nov., 1955.
221 224	Informal Formal	Milk	No. 221 contained 27.3% added water and No. 224 contained 17.0% of added water.	A warning letter was sent to the producer.
226 233	Informal Formal	Milk	No. 226 contained 0.2% added water and No. 233 contained 3.0% of added water.	A warning letter was sent to the producer.
235 236 237	Informal Informal Informal	Milk	Contained 2.4, 5.4 and 8.6% added water respectively.	At the Harrogate Magistrates Court on 14th February, 1956, the summons against the producer was dismissed. The producer brought a summons against a 15 year old boy in his employ. The boy was given a conditional discharge on payment of 25/- costs.
239 240	Formal Formal	Milk	Contained 12.0 and 11.9% of added water respectively.	

PUBLIC CLEANSING — HOUSEHOLD AND TRADE REFUSE

1st April, 1955 to 31st March, 1956

Collection of Refuse.

Refuse was collected from 19,010 houses and other premises within the Borough, an increase of 156.

Collecting Vehicles.

The collection of refuse was carried out by side loading vehicles with a total carrying capacity of 111 cubic yards.

The Fordson vehicles are now in their eighth year and some of the Karriers in their seventh. The total mileage of the fleet is now 514,345. Only one of the Karrier engines has been decarbonised, the others having run for seven years without any attention whatsoever. The compression on all cylinders is still excellent and oil consumption negligible. The general running costs of the fleet are amongst the lowest in the country for vehicles carrying out work of this nature. When one realises the fact that these engines are running all day mostly in bottom gear and stopping and starting dozens of times one can appreciate the excellent service they have given.

There are signs of wear in the bodies of the vehicles but the policy of stripping down and painting every three years has paid excellent dividends.

The drivers are responsible for greasing and general maintenance of their vehicles. This instils in them a sense of pride in its performance and freedom from constant trouble. The system also places the onus of any neglect fairly and squarely on one pair of shoulders so no excuses can be offered of the type where routine maintenance is more general in character.

There is also in operation systematic washing down of the vehicles so that they appear before the public each day in a clean and tidy condition.

Year	Repairs			New Engines (Fords)		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1950 - 1951	188	11	3	52	16	6
1951 - 1952	295	17	4	108	7	2
1952 - 1953	286	2	3	70	0	0
1953 - 1954	282	5	0	70	0	0
1954 - 1955	420	5	3	140	0	0
1955 - 1956	360	10	3	79	1	2

The policy with regard to the Ford V8 engines has been to replace them at standard intervals.

Make	Method of loading	Year of make	Capacity (cubic yards)
Four Fordsons ...	side	1948	10
		1948	10
		1948	10
		1948	10
Seven Karriers ...	side	1943	7
		1949	12
		1949	12
		1950	10
		1950	10
		1950	10
		1953	10
One Karrier ...	side	1953	2 ton general duty tipper

Trade Refuse.

The following are the charges made for the collection of trade refuse:—

10/- per motor load.

4d. per bin in excess of one per week.

Hotel Refuse.

One free collection is made per week. For each weekly collection in addition to the former the sum of £1 1s. 0d. per annum is charged.

Private Tipping.

The charges made for the private tipping of refuse by individuals are 2/- per load up to two tons and 2/6 per load over two tons. During the year 558 loads of refuse were disposed of on this basis, yielding a revenue of £55 16s. 0d.

Tonnage.

The highest weekly tonnage of refuse was 479 tons which was collected during the week ended 7th January, 1956, and the lowest tonnage for the week ended 24th December, 1955, when 333 tons were collected. The figures for last year were 413 and 336 tons respectively.

19,963 tons of household and trade refuse were collected during the year as against 20,685 tons for 1954/55.

The following shows the classification and tonnage of refuse collected and disposed of during the year:—

**Estimated Tonnage of Materials Handled by Cleansing
Department 1955/56.**

Type	Collection	Disposal
1. Household Refuse	18,452	18,452
2. Trade Refuse	989	989
3. Night Soil	12	12
4. Covering Material	646	646
5. Road Sweepings	8	1,327
6. Street Gully Solids	—	1,398
7. Salvage	502	—
8. Trade Refuse (disposal only, not collected)	—	1,116
9. Materials delivered to tips by other departments	—	126
Total	20,609	24,066
Less covering materials	646	—
Total refuse collected	19,963	—
Total refuse disposed of	—	24,066

Analysis of Refuse Covering the Four Seasons of the Year.

Material	Summer	Autumn	Winter	Spring	Average
Dust under 5/16th in.	32.60	33.10	52.59	45.83	41.03
Cinders under 1/2 in.	8.23	8.10	16.59	11.25	11.04
Cinders over 1/2 in.	14.64	23.00	11.00	15.43	16.02
Vegetables, Putrescible Matter, etc.	14.64	8.78	3.25	5.00	7.92
Paper, Cardboard, etc.	7.32	5.75	2.25	9.15	6.12
Metal Containers - Food	3.65	1.01	2.00	5.83	3.12
Metal Containers - Others	0.91	1.35	0.25	0.83	0.84
Other Metals	1.40	0.67	1.57	—	0.91
Textiles, Rags, etc.	2.73	2.02	0.25	1.25	1.56
Bottles and Jars	6.72	2.02	3.25	2.08	3.52
Broken Glass	0.91	4.73	1.00	0.85	1.87
Bones	0.35	—	—	0.42	0.19
Combustible Refuse	2.80	2.70	2.05	0.83	2.09
Incombustible Refuse	3.10	6.77	3.95	1.25	3.77
	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Density of Refuse (cwts. per cubic yard) ..	4.50	4.50	5.25	4.50	4.69

Frequency of Collection.

It was only with great difficulty that a seven day collection of refuse was maintained during the year. At holiday times and when the staff became depleted by sickness the collection in certain districts ran for short periods of eight to nine days. Small estates of houses continue to be built and flat conversion is still taking place. An order was placed for a new 18 cubic yard vehicle to replace one of 10 cubic yards. An effort is being made to continue with the present number of vehicles and districts for another year but it is obvious that an extra vehicle operating in a new district will have to be put into service for 1957.

Whilst the number of employees was maintained at the establishment figure it was found to be impossible to engage men for short periods of employment.

Hours Lost Through Sickness and Accidents.

Week	Spring quarter		Summer quarter		Autumn quarter		Winter quarter	
	Sick	Accidents	Sick	Accidents	Sick	Accidents	Sick	Accidents
1	—	—	44	—	44	—	45	44
2	—	—	79	—	—	—	—	44
3	—	—	44	44	—	35	36	44
4	35	—	88	—	—	44	185	44
5	273	—	44	—	81	44	260	44
6	264	—	44	—	44	44	236	76
7	44	—	44	—	27	44	196	88
8	88	—	88	—	44	132	380	88
9	44	—	88	—	23	88	264	88
10	53	—	88	—	181	88	128	76
11	44	—	44	—	62	44	104	9
12	44	—	44	—	44	44	—	44
13	44	—	44	—	132	44	—	—
Total	933	—	783	44	682	651	1,834	689

Summary :—

Spring quarter
Summer quarter
Autumn quarter
Winter quarter

... ..
... ..
... ..
... ..

Sickness

Accidents

933

783

682

1,834

—

44

651

689

Totals

4,232

1,384

Disposal of Refuse.

All refuse in the Borough is disposed of by controlled tipping. Four tips were used during the year, i.e. Stonerings, Yorkshire Showground, Hall Lane and Howe Hill.

In June the Council purchased a "Muledozer" at a cost of £820 to carry out the work of controlled tipping of refuse. This machine made redundant the services of three men and costs approximately £150 per year to run and maintain, excluding the wages of the driver. The work on the tip was thus carried out by two men plus the machine instead of five men. The cost of purchase and running were more than recovered at the end of its first year of service. Twin pneumatic wheels were fitted to the rear of the machine in order to reduce ground pressure, increase traction and obviate as far as possible punctures by glass by single tyres burying themselves into the refuse. It was with some trepidation that the machine was first put into service and the crunching of glass by the tyres was not a pleasant sound. After one year the number of punctures in the rear tyres amounted to five with no damage to the tyres themselves. Punctures in the small front wheels are more frequent but a spare wheel is always available and puncture repairs are carried out on the site by the driver. The time lost is negligible. I cannot speak too highly of the "Muledozer" and the manner in which it has carried out the work for which it was purchased. It is very mobile and can rapidly be moved about from tip to tip.

The department was requested to clean up and level Hall Lane quarry which had been used as a dump by all and sundry with the result that a serious nuisance had arisen from piles of rubbish of all descriptions. A track laying bulldozer was engaged and the heaps of clay and rubbish were pushed into the quarry. Controlled tipping was then commenced and the natural contours of the slopes restored. The site was finally soiled and grassed, I am pleased to say, to everyone's satisfaction.

Operations were also renewed on the big scheme for levelling the Valley at the Yorkshire Show Ground. The work is rather an ambitious one and when completed should add many acres of level ground to the site.

Salvage.

The table below shows the value of salvage sold since the cessation of hostilities:—

	£	s.	d.
1946/47	2,665	18	7
1947/48	3,091	14	4
1948/49	3,313	2	4
1949/50	3,200	12	6
1950/51	3,639	15	11
1951/52	7,353	8	10
1952/53	4,035	12	7
1953/54	3,933	6	7
1954/55	3,534	2	2
1955/56	4,068	1	11
Total	38,835	15	9

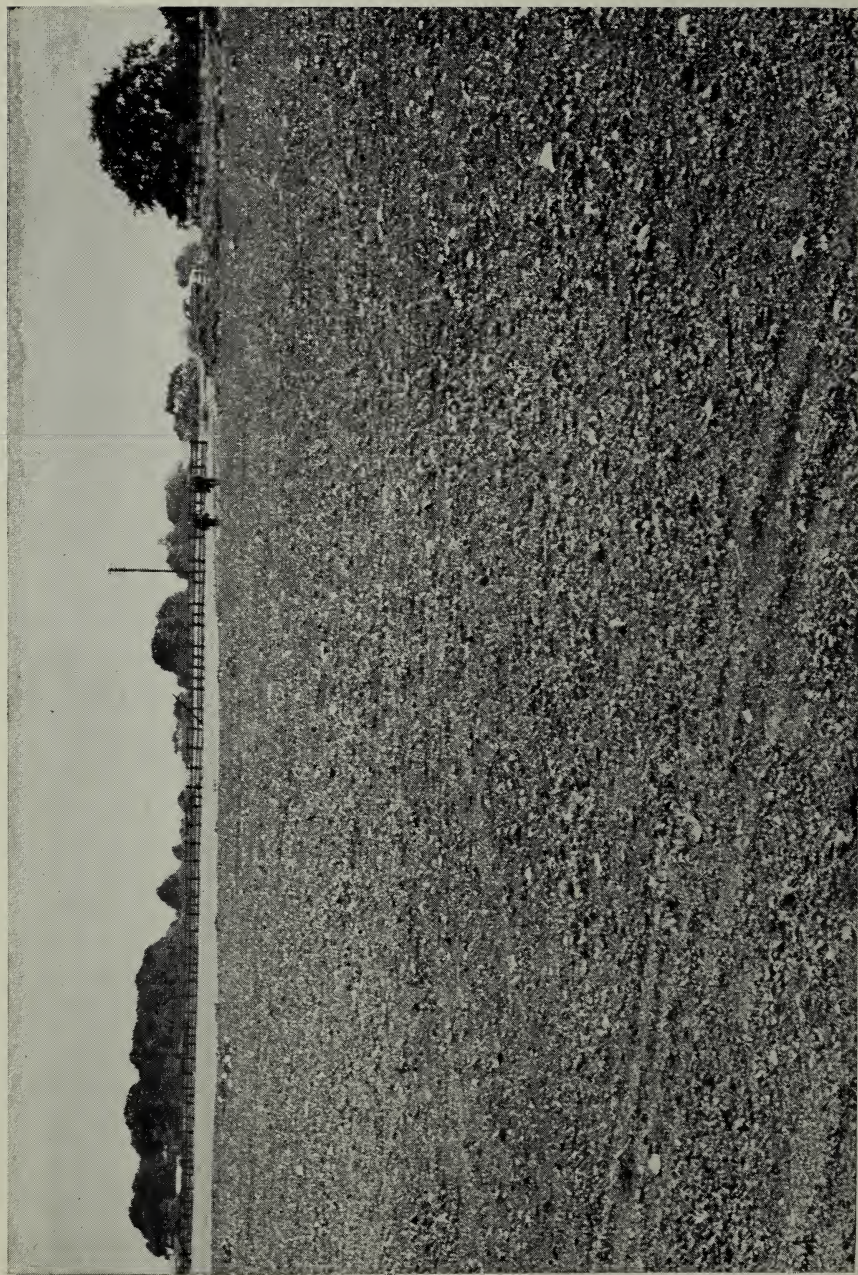
The following table shows how the 1955/56 amount was made up:—

Material	Tons	Cwts.	Qrts.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper ...	444	18	2	0	3,803	9	0
Aluminium ...		6	1	10	23	13	4
Brass ...		2	2	11	19	8	0
Copper ...		1	2	4	14	3	4
Lead ...		2	2	21	12	1	10
Scrap Iron ...	4	12	0	0	20	14	0
Scrap Tins ...	46	6	0	0	59	4	8
String ...		18	1	5	7	6	4
Bagging ...		10	0	26	5	2	3
Soiled Rags ...	1	18	2	22	41	18	9
Clean Rags ...	1	15	0	22	58	1	1
Carpets ...		6	3	2	2	0	7
Hair Mattresses ...			2	4		18	9
Totals ...	501	19	1	15	4,068	1	11

The sum received from salvage is approximately £534 in excess of the amount received in the last financial year.



Commencement of work of levelling site at Yorkshire Agricultural Showground 22.10.55.



Yorkshire Agricultural Showground 5.7.56. — To be covered with soil.

Protective Clothing.

Each man employed in the collection and disposal of refuse is equipped as follows :—

1 overall jacket and 2 bib and brace trousers (annual issue).

1 three-quarter length waterproof coat and 1 pair waterproof leggings (triennial issue).

New waterproof clothing was issued in October, 1954.

PUBLIC CLEANSING COSTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH, 1956.

The table below gives the costing return which has to be submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government every financial year end. The cost of refuse collection and disposal in Harrogate is below the average for similar towns in England and Wales.

Item	Particulars	Collection £	Disposal £	Total £	Percentage of total gross expenditure
1	Revenue Account				
	Gross Expenditure				
	(i) Labour ..	14,717	3,061	17,778	58.465
	(ii) Transport ...	10,705	—	10,705	35.204
	(iii) Plant, equipment, land and buildings	358	994	1,352	4.446
	(iv) Other items	382	191	573	1.885
	(v) Total gross expenditure ...	26,162	4,246	30,408	100.000
2	Gross Income	158	4,202	4,360	
3	Net Cost	26,004	44	26,048	
4	Capital expenditure met from revenue (included above) ...	—	—	—	
	Unit Costs	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
5	Gross cost per ton, labour only ...	14 9	2 7	17 4	
6	Gross cost per ton, transport only ...	10 9	- -	10 9	
7	Net cost (all expenditure) per ton ...	26 0	- -	26 0	
		£	£	£	
8	Net cost per 1,000 population ...	503	—	503	
9	Net cost per 1,000 premises ...	1,368	2	1,370	

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

Area (statute acres)—land and inland water—8,320 acres.

Population at 30th June, 1955—51,710 persons.

Total refuse collected (tons). Estimated from regular test weighings—19,963 tons.

Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day 365 days to year—21.04 cwts.

Number of premises from which refuse is collected—19,010 premises.

Average haul (miles) by collection vehicle to disposal point—3.5 miles.

Premises from which collections are made at least once per week—100 per cent approx.

Kerbside collection, if practised, expressed as estimated percentage of total collection—None.

Total refuse disposed of (tons)—24,066 tons.

Methods of disposal: Controlled tipping—100 per cent.

Salvage and Trade Refuse. Analysis of income and tonnage:

Salvage.

		Income (included in Item 2)	Tonnage Collected
		£	Tons
(a)	Kitchen Waste	—	—
(b)	Scrap Metal	149	52
(c)	Waste Paper	3,803	445
(d)	Other Salvage	116	5
Total		4,068	502
Trade Refuse		236	225

EXTRACT FROM PUBLIC CLEANSING COSTING RETURNS 1954/55.

Unit Costs	Average for Non-county Boroughs		Harrogate	
Net Cost Per Ton	s.	d.	s.	d.
Collection	29	2	23	5
Disposal	4	4	—	8
Total	33	6	24	1
Net Cost Per 1,000 Population	£		£	
Collection	442		469	
Disposal	70		17	
Total	512		486	
Net Cost Per 1,000 Premises	£		£	
Collection	1,389		1,285	
Disposal	220		45	
Total	1,609		1,330	
Gross Cost Per Ton	s.	d.	s.	d.
Labour	21	11	16	4
Transport	14	5	9	5

These figures do not include the fluctuating population of thousands of people visiting the town for holidays, conferences, etc., but are based on the permanent population of non-County Boroughs.

